Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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OPINION METER

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6 DAYS BEFORE DELEGATE ELECTION

INSIDE

Puppet Show

This November, five Smeshariki characters will travel to Saipan to perform a puppet show.

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Indon tsunami kills 23, leaves scores missing

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—A powerful earthquake triggered a tsunami that pounded villages on remote islands off western Indonesia, killing at least 23 people and leaving more than 160 others

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Indicted cop surrenders; no bail at this time. PAGE 2
Doromal fears coverup in alleged police brutality case. PAGE 3

'Ethics law did not apply in sole-source ARRA contract award'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Press secretary Angel Demapan said yesterday that the CNMI Ethics Law did not apply in the sole-source contract awarded to former Commerce secretary Michael J. Ada's Integrated Professional Solutions LLC.

The Fitial administration awarded the $392,406 no-bid contract to Ada and Jose Padilla's IPS to privately manage the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act in the CNMI, right after Ada stepped down as Commerce secretary.

Ada was also the CNMI ARRA lead when he was still Commerce secretary.

Demapan reiterated yesterday that Ada was not paid by the CNMI to be the

See ETHICS on Page 4

Speaker: 'Deal' offered to Santos for Senate passage of casino bill

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Speaker Froilan Tenorio (Cov-Saipan) gestures as he talks directly to minority leader Diego Benavente (R-Saipan), not in photo, during a heated discussion on the appointment and contract of Legislative Bureau director Glenna SP. Reyes, in yesterday afternoon's House session on Capital Hill.

» Froilan, Diego trade barbs over LB director issue

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

House Speaker Froilan Tenorio (Cov-Saipan) told fellow House members yesterday that he had offered Rep. Teresita A. Santos (Ind-Rota) a deal to provide $1.8 million for the Rota Casino Gaming Commission in exchange for the passage of his Saipan casino bill in the Senate. Santos later said such statement is "misleading and inaccurate."

The Senate killed Tenorio's casino bill during a session on Tinian in September.

Tenorio, at the same time, belied minority leader Diego T. Benavente's (R-

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Govt health insurance rates to go up

» Rate hike to take effect on Nov. 1

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The NMI Retirement Fund board of trustees adopted yesterday an emergency regulation that will drastically increase the premiums of Group Health and Life Insurance Program members.

The 66-percent increase in the premium of retirees will take effect on Nov. 1.

Board chair Sixto Igisomar admitted during yesterday's board meeting that the rate increase is "drastic" but defended it as the most viable option for the CNMI

See INSURANCE on Page 4

Over $100K leftover OIA grant for desk audit 'remains intact'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The Fitial administration said yesterday it has not spent over $100,000 in U.S. Office of Insular Affairs money left over from a grant funding for a government-wide desk audit that was later pared down to initially cover just the Department of Public Safety and the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs.

The over $100,000 in leftover fund is the difference between some $360,000 in OIA grant provided to the CNMI for a government-wide or-

See OVER $100K on Page 4

Local

Indicted cop surrenders; no bail at this time

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Indicted police officer Florencio Q. Richards surrendered to federal authorities yesterday to deny charges of selling illegal drugs on Saipan. The U.S. District Court for the NMI imposed no bail at this time.

The 32-year-old Richards, accompanied by attorneys Joseph James Norita Camacho and Michael Norita Evangelista, proceeded to the U.S. Probation Office at 10am and turned himself in at the U.S. Marshal Service later in the afternoon.

Camacho is the court-appointed counsel for Richards in his criminal charges pending in the Superior Court. The district court appointed Evangelista as counsel for the defendant in the federal case.

At the hearing yesterday afternoon, Richards pleaded not guilty to the indictment that charged him with conspiracy to distribute a controlled substance, distribution of a controlled substance, carrying a firearm during and in relation to a drug trafficking crime, and possession of a firearm by a prohibited person.

His detention hearing will be held on Monday, Nov. 1, and jury trial will start on Dec. 13, 2010.

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge Robert C. Naraja imposed no bail at this time and remanded Richards to the custody of the U.S. Marshal.

Assistant U.S. Attorney James Benedetto appeared for the U.S. government.

According to the indictment, sometime in July 2010 to July 15, 2010, Richards and others conspired to distribute "ice" in exchange for money or other things of value.

During the transactions, the police officer allegedly had a Smith & Wesson 9 millimeter semi-automatic handgun under the seat of his pickup truck.

In an interview with *Saipan Tribune*, Evangelista said that Richards was very cooperative when told about the indictment and in fact turned himself in.

"I will be discussing with my client about the discovery matter. We're weighing our options in this matter. Under our judicial system, a defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty," said Evangelista, a former prosecutor and counsel for the Legislature.

On July 15, 2010, the CNMI Joint Drug Task Force arrested Richards and Belinda O. Omengkar inside a 1993 Hilux pickup truck parked at the Garapan Fishing Base for alleged trafficking and possession of "ice." At the time, Richards was off-duty.

Richards and Omengkar pleaded not guilty. The case is still pending in court. Richards posted $1,000 cash bail in that case.

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Fund signs an 'open' contract with its new investment consultant

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The NMI Retirement Fund board has approved an "open" contract with its new investment consultant, Wilshire Associates Inc., which provide that both parties can terminate the agreement at any time.

Fund administrator Richard Villagomez said an open contract is one with no expiration date but may be terminated at anytime if one party wishes to do so.

Under the agreement, Wilshire Associates will be paid at a rate almost similar to its predecessor, Merrill Lynch, Villagomez said.

Merrill Lynch made about $150,000 per year for its services to the Fund. This is equivalent to 3.5 percent of every 1 percent of the Fund's total investments.

Villagomez assured that the consultant's performance will be subject to periodic review by the Fund.

"That's the prudent thing to do…review it periodically. In terms of rates, it's about the same rates [provided to Merrill Lynch]," said Villagomez.

Saipan Tribune learned that Wilshire Associates began its work for the Fund on Oct. 1.

Three of its representatives met with the board yesterday and discussed pertinent matters in a closed-door meeting that lasted about three hours. Today, the Wilshire representatives are scheduled to make a presentation to the board.

Wilshire Associates Inc. is based in Santa Monica, California.

The Fund board was prompted to hire a new investment consultant after Merrill Lynch said it wants to increase its fees.

Merrill Lynch had wanted to increase its service fee from 3.5 basis points to 5 basis points—or 5 percent of 1 percent—equivalent to about $180,000 annually.

Doromal fears coverup in alleged police brutality case

Human rights advocate Wendy Doromal has expressed fear that the Department of Public Safety and the Office of the Attorney General will just cover up the police brutality complaint filed by a barbershop employee.

In her Unheard No More blog, Doromal said she doubts that Jin Dong Wang will receive justice from the DPS or the OAG, hence the reason why the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the U.S. Attorney's Office were notified of the incident.

"If it is true that the men who beat and then handcuffed Wang were, in fact, undercover cops, then let the CNMI government issue a statement [and] terminate all officers involved in the assault," she said.

Doromal said the officers should also pay for Wang's medical expenses, loss of work, and punitive damages.

Wang, 44, a Chinese national, sustained head injuries and complained of pain in his back and body.

He alleged that one of 10 to 20 officers barged inside his house in As Lito on Oct. 18 and beat him up after mistaking him for a methamphetamine or "ice" dealer.

One officer hit Wang with a handgun on the head, causing injuries. The same officer also allegedly kicked him on the back and body.

Wang learned later that the officers mistook him for Junding Qiu, whom they have been looking for.

Saipan Tribune repeatedly tried to get comments from DPS since Monday, to no avail.

DPS Commissioner Santiago F. Tudela has reportedly ordered an investigation. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Court seals motions in bat poaching case

The federal court has granted the request of Rota Customs Officer Albert Taitano to seal his motions in connection with the charges that he and two other persons poached a breeding colony of threatened Mariana fruit bats.

U.S. District Court for the NMI visiting judge Mark W. Bennett said that Taitano moved to seal his motions to avoid the risk of tainting the jury pool by publicly filing a motion to exclude evidence.

Taitano's lawyer, Bruce Berline, made the request to seal on the grounds that motions in limine ask the court to exclude certain evidence based upon such evidence being irrelevant or highly prejudiced.

"For these same reasons, taking into consideration the size of a CNMI jury pool and the fast approaching trial date, defendant does not want to risk tainting the jury pool by publicly filing this motion and the underlying memorandum," Berline said.

The indictment charged Taitano, Division of Fish and Wildlife staff David Santos, and retired police officer Adrian Mendiola, with taking threatened species in violation of the Endangered Species Act. The defendants pleaded not guilty. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Fund lifts travel freeze

The NMI Retirement Fund board unanimously approved yesterday the lifting of the ban on off-island travels for Fund trustees and employees.

The decision was made in conjunction with the Nov. 14 annual conference in Honolulu, where all five trustees and two Fund personnel are expected to participate.

Board chair Sixto Igisomar said the lifting of the travel ban applies only to the upcoming conference.

Trustee Francisco Rosario said that participating in the conference would help them improve their performance.

Igisomar said this will be the first time that Fund personnel will be sent to the event.

The board also approved yesterday the recommendation of Fund administrator Richard Villagomez to bring experts to the island for a one-time training for all Fund personnel.

Villagomez said this will be cheaper than sending personnel off-island. ***(Moneth G. Deposa)***

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Tinian, Rota employees' eligibility for retirement benefits also questioned

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Speaker Froilan Tenorio (Cov-Saipan) questioned yesterday the eligibility of Rota and Tinian municipalities' employees and officials to receive retirement benefits, adding that he will request the Office of the Public Auditor to look into the matter.

This is in addition to Tenorio's request to the NMI Retirement Fund to clarify whether Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission's board members are eligible to receive retirement benefits.

Tenorio said it is his understanding "that these individuals are not employees of the Commonwealth government and therefore should not be members of the Retirement Fund."

Tenorio, who introduced a Saipan casino bill that the House passed and the Senate rejected, said the Tinian casino commission is a local government agency of a separate political subdivision, and it is not part of the CNMI government.

He said the same could be said of the Tinian and Rota municipalities.

In other news, the House of Representatives agreed yesterday to defer acting on a motion to override the governor's line-item veto of the budget law's provision on Rota and Tinian tourism, until they hear directly from the Marianas Visitors Authority.

The deleted provision would make sure that $360,000 of the "all others" appropriation of MVA will go into subsidizing Rota and Tinian charter flights and pay for outstanding obligations to travel partners.

OVER $100K

From Page 1

ganization review, and the $254,459.12 contract the Fitial administration awarded to Virginia-based Management Analysis Inc. for the desk audit of the two agencies.

Press secretary Angel Demapan, in an interview yesterday, said the $100,000 "remains intact" and could not be used for anything other than for its intended use as a condition of the OIA grant.

"We are reviewing our options. But the $100,000 is still there, it's sitting idly. It remains intact. We did not use it for something else," Demapan told *Saipan Tribune.*

Demapan said the administration's options include using the $100,000 for an audit of a smaller government agency, or to ask OIA whether more money could be tapped to add to the leftover funds for a desk audit of other agencies.

U.S. Interior Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas Tony Babauta will be on Saipan next month, and this may be discussed, Demapan said.

Babauta will be hosting a Nov. 9 forum on economic and labor development to discuss a technical assistance program sanctioned by the Consolidated Natural Resources Act, the law that placed CNMI immigration under federal control.

In December last year, special assistant for management and budget Virginia Villagomez and acting personnel director Francisco Ada Jr. had said the initial OIA funding was not enough to award the entire scope of RFP 09-OPM-099 to the highest-ranking proposer, MAI.

Besides MAI, one other firm, Saipan-based KIS Communications, responded to the RFP for the desk audit in July 2009.

Villagomez and Ada therefore asked Procurement and Supply director Herman Sablan's approval to begin fee negotiations with MAI to perform the organizational review in phases, starting with DPS. The Department of Finance was later added, but it was also later replaced with DCCA.

MAI released its report on the desk audit of DPS and DCCA to the Fitial administration on Oct. 5, 2010.

MAI has a long list of recommendations to improve the efficiency, delivery of services, meet all local and federal laws and regulations, and produce cost savings at DPS and DCCA.

The Fitial administration said it is still reviewing the recommendations.

INSURANCE

From Page 1

at present.

"If we decline this, we will be sacrificing a lot of coverages for our members. Yes, I understand the retirees' frustrations but this is the only choice we have or the carrier will terminate the plan," he said.

According to Fund administrator Richard Villagomez, no other health insurance provider on island is willing to cover government retirees other than its present carrier, Aetna Global.

"There's no health insurance provider on island who's willing to cover retirees. We don't like the rate increase… but our only option is to accept it or [there will be] no coverage at all. It all comes down to choice and we really don't have any," said Villagomez.

Reynaldo Aguon, a Department of Public Works retiree, appealed to the board yesterday to reconsider its decision, saying that retirees who receive smaller benefits could not afford to pay the new premiums.

"If I am only getting $500 in my check and you're going to take away $280 for the insurance, do you think I can afford that, considering that we have still obligations other than insurance? How about our food? Please help the retirees because we can't afford it," he pleaded with the board.

Fund officials clarified that "negotiations" on the rate increase—which had been stalled since August—was between the Fitial administration and the insurance carrier. The Fund only serves as administrator of the program.

It was learned that Aetna Global had threatened to terminate the plan if no decision on the matter is reached before December.

The board said yesterday that the adoption of the rate increase is crucial to the survival of the GHLIP and serves the best interest of the public.

ETHICS

From Page 1

CNMI ARRA lead, but was paid to be the CNMI Commerce secretary.

He said the CNMI Commerce secretary is statutorily required to serve as the insurance commissioner, banking director, and oversee other offices that are assigned by law or regulation.

Demapan said the ARRA office was not assigned to Commerce by either law or regulation.

"For example, if Ada started a bank, the ethics law would be applicable because he would have served in a capacity as a banking regulator and then would be earning money in the industry in which he regulated," Demapan told *Saipan Tribune.*

The press secretary also said the CNMI never paid for any special training for the ARRA. "Rather, the skill set Mr. Ada utilized to run the program was gained through his educational and professional background."

"When Ada traveled for ARRA State Lead meetings, there was no specific training provided; rather it was a forum to address issues that the jurisdictions were facing," Demapan added.

He also reiterated that the funds used to pay for the management of the ARRA are not funded directly through any particular grant like the contract summaries posted on the CNMI ARRA website. "Rather, it is an allowable administrative rate allowed by U.S. OMB Guidance M-09-18, which was released in April of 2009."

"This contract is unique in this regards because it is an allowable reimbursement rate and not funded directly from a specific grant," Demapan added.

Public Auditor Mike Pai had confirmed on Monday that OPA has received complaints about the matter but said "OPA cannot comment on open investigations."

The CNMI Ethics Act of 1992 has post-government employment restrictions.

TSUNAMI

From Page 1

missing, witnesses and officials said Tuesday.

The death toll from the 7.7-magnitude quake, which struck 13 miles (20 kilometers) beneath the ocean floor late Monday, was expected to climb with reports about damage and injuries just starting to trickle in the next day.

Mujiharto, who heads the Health Ministry's crisis center, said a 10-foot (three-meter) -high wave washed away hundreds of houses on Pagai and Silabu, part of the remote and sparsely populated Mentawai island chain.

"We have 200 body bags on the way, just in case," he said.

Indonesia, the world's largest archipelago, is prone to earthquakes and volcanic activity due to its location on the so-called Pacific Ring of Fire.

The fault that ruptured Monday, running the length of the west coast of Sumatra island, also caused the 9.1-magnitude quake that unleashed a monster tsunami around the Indian Ocean in 2004, killing 230,000 people in a dozen countries.

Getting to the Mentawais, a popular surfing spot 175 miles (280 kilometers) from the Sumatra coast takes 12 hours and the islands are reachable only by boat.

A group of Australians said they were hanging out on the back deck of their chartered surfing vessel, anchored in a nearby bay, when the temblor hit. It generated a wave that caused them to smash into a neighboring boat, and before they knew it, a fire was ripping through their cabin.

"We threw whatever we could that floated—surfboards, fenders—then we jumped into the water," Rick Hallet told Australia's Nine Network. "Fortunately, most of us had something to hold on to ... and we just washed in the wetlands, and scrambled up the highest trees that we could possibly find and sat up there for an hour and a half."

By daytime Tuesday, the toll from the quake and tsunami was rising.

Ade Edward, a disaster management agency official, said 23 bodies were found in coastal villages—mostly on the hardest hit island of Pagai—and another 167 people were missing.

Water in some places reached roof tops, and in Muntei Baru, a village on Silabu, 80 percent of the houses were damaged.

SPEAKER

From Page 1

Saipan) statement yesterday that the speaker also offered a deal to both Sen. Pete P. Reyes (R-Saipan) and his wife, Legislative Bureau director Glenna SP. Reyes, related to the casino bill in exchange for allowing Mrs. Reyes to remain at her post.

Tenorio and Benavente engaged in heated discussion—both in English and in the vernacular—over Mrs. Reyes' contract and appointment during a House session yesterday afternoon.

It was during this exchange that the speaker admitted offering a deal to Santos, whom he had removed as Natural Resources Committee chair, and denied a deal with the Reyes couple.

"There was no such deal Mr. Minority Leader. Did you really expect me that I would talk to Mrs. Reyes at the time when we had this hostile relationship, that I would say something like that to her? Or did you really think I was meeting with the senator about this matter? Come on. Be responsible. I will admit to this one [Santos deal]. I made a deal and I'm glad it didn't go through because I didn't know whether I could have carried it out," Tenorio said during the session.

The speaker went on to talk about his supposed deal with Santos.

"I told her [Santos]…you approve the casino, you have your senators approve the casino [bill] in the Senate, and I will see to it that we appropriate $1.8 million for the Rota Casino Gaming Commission. That, I did. I'm not denying that and I'm glad we didn't approve it because I didn't know whether I could have done what I said I was going to do. But as far as Mrs. Reyes and her husband [is concerned], I never struck a deal with them," Tenorio said.

Verbal response

Tenorio volunteered to temporarily step down as speaker only during yesterday's session so he could verbally respond to Benavente's letter sent last week accusing the speaker of "harassing" Mrs. Reyes.

Benavente, in his letter to Tenorio, said, "It is common knowledge in the Legislature you gave Mrs. Reyes your blessings as the director for the next fiscal year during the Senate deliberations of your casino bill. But when the Senate rejected your casino bill, you obviously changed your mind and continued to harass Mrs. Reyes. Your actions are uncalled for and are tantamount to harassing the director in violation of the CNMI Constitution."

Not automatic

Tenorio reiterated yesterday that he did not remove Mrs. Reyes as bureau director, but that her contract did not automatically renew on Oct. 1.

"This contract shall automatically renew on Oct. 1, 2010 without any further action being taken by employer or employee, provided funds are obligated for the position by the passage of a budget or by continuing resolution for the fiscal year beginning Oct. 1, 2010, for the period covered by fiscal year 2011," it reads.

The speaker cited Attorney General Edward Buckingham's opinion that there was no budget in effect as of Oct. 1, 2010.

Benavente and Tenorio went on for some 30 minutes discussing the matter, while other House members just listened.

No payments

This came a day after Tenorio wrote to Finance Secretary Bob Schrack, asking him not to pay Mrs. Reyes' salary anymore.

"To avoid improper payments from the Commonwealth Treasury, please make sure that no government funds are expended to pay the salary or benefits for Glenna SP. Reyes after Sept. 30, 2010. Also, please do not process any contract or other document signed by Mrs. Reyes after that date, as she no longer held the position of director of the Legislative Bureau," Tenorio told Schrack.

Benavente said that Tenorio was wrong again.

The minority leader said the Department of Finance gave Mrs. Reyes her salary yesterday.

Tenorio, in an interview later, said that would be his last letter regarding Mrs. Reyes.

"It would now be up to the Executive Branch or the attorney general to tell the Finance secretary whether to honor my letter or not," Tenorio said.

Misleading statement

Santos, meanwhile, told *Saipan Tribune* that Tenorio's statements regarding a deal he supposedly struck with her is not true.

She said Tenorio's defeated Saipan casino bill provided for 25 percent revenue for Rota and a commissioner from Rota and Tinian.

"Thus, that cannot be considered an offer or deal either. How can he even make such a statement in my absence?" Santos said.

Tenorio made the statement when Santos left the chamber for a few minutes. When she returned to the House chamber, Tenorio and Benavente's discussion had already turned to the issue of the LB director.

"This $1.8 million is a bill introduced to earmark from MPLT, $0.9 million for fiscal year 2011 and another $$0.9 million for 2012. So I'm astonished by his misleading statement. Again, his statements were misleading and inaccurate as my bills can attest to the facts. No deals have been offered so no need to further dwell on the matter," Santos said.

Public library to participate in PIALA conference

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library will be sending three staff members to represent the CNMI's state library in the Pacific Islands Association of Library and Archives 20th Annual Conference next month.

PIALA is the newest regional association of librarians and archivists in the Pacific, composed of over 100 individuals and institution members representing countries that include Australia, New Zealand, New Caledonia, Japan, Tonga, Fiji, Papua New Guinea, and the United Kingdom.

The association was formed to address the needs of librarians and archivists from the Pacific, with a special focus on Micronesia.

This year's conference will be held on Nov. 15-19 in Weno in the island state of Chuuk, Federated States of Micronesia.

The theme for this year's conference is "Libraries, Archives, and Museums helping to create futures: Building on Culture, Knowledge, and Information through Collaboration and Resource Sharing."

Executive director John Oliver DLR Gonzales said he and one staff each from the Children of Our Homeland Library and Book Mobile will attend the conference.

Gonzales told *Saipan Tribune* that there has been no representation from the CNMI for the conference in the last four years.

"Through the efforts of the public library staff, we were able to access funds to restore CNMI's representation [in] this important conference," he said.

Gonzales said they applied for a grant with the Institute of Museum and Library Services so that public library staff can attend the conference.

"We are pleased that CNMI representation is back on this conference. This will be a great opportunity for the Commonwealth to know more about important information and trends to help develop our own libraries," he said.

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Saipan Tribune Make it your DAILY habit.

DPH proposes more cost-cutting to avert work-hour reduction

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Public Health is proposing some cost-cutting measures for the Commonwealth Health Center to avert a 16-hour work reduction among its employees.

DPH has identified three key areas where it expects to generate substantial savings on its operation. These include reduction of overtimes, removal of unnecessary expenses and waste, and improvement on revenue collections.

Esther Muña, acting deputy secretary for hospital administration, also recommended the cross-training of nurses, filling of vacant FTEs so that CHC will minimize paying for overtimes, and for overtime to be approved only on "need" basis and census.

In the nursing infantry care unit, Muña said, the unit's census fluctuates tremendously, so in order to cut on overtime, two registered nurses from the OB unit have been cross-trained into NICU.

"Those staff members are now fully trained and are independently functioning and will work in either department depending on need and census," she said.

The labor and delivery unit is also currently short-staffed and CHC is in the process of hiring another certified nurse midwife. Muña said this unit is also working on reducing the amount of materials they are ordering to cut down on expired items and extra stocks.

At the pediatrics unit, Muña said the nursing staff does not accrue overtime and are always willing and able to float to other units as needed. This technique of floating reduces overtime in other units as well, she added.

Muña said the operating room, or OR, staff only accrues overtime during emergency cases, which cannot be prevented. But this unit is diligently working on their stocks and trying to reduce any overstocking, reducing wastage that occurs when things expire.

Muña said staffers are reminded regularly to avoid or minimize waste by ordering stocks that will last for two to three weeks only.

"CHC needs to ensure that units and sections are not hoarding supplies. They should request only what is needed to support their operation," she said, adding that the department managed to reduce expenditures on medical supplies by about $110,000 from previous years' expenses in this area.

Muña said other government agencies and departments should also reimburse CHC for using medical supply stocks to generate savings.

To remove unnecessary expenses and waste, Muña recommended the timely payment to vendors to avoid paying for shipping due to late payments. She also suggested the non-accommodation of outside agencies without a journal voucher of funds to CHC.

DPH earlier asked the governor to exempt the department's administrative and support personnel from the work-hour cuts as they all perform important tasks for the hospital. To date, only doctors, nurses and other personnel directly involve in patients care are exempted from the 16-hour cut.

The department was approved 380 FTEs for fiscal year 2011—a drastic reduction from 2005's FTEs of 526.

Sentencing date set for man in manslaughter case

Shane Jonathan Hocog, the 22-year-old man who pleaded guilty to involuntary manslaughter for the fatal assault on a guest worker near Kagman High School, will be sentenced on Dec. 16, 2010.

Associate Judge Perry B. Inos set Hocog's sentencing yesterday and directed the Office of the Adult Probation to submit a pre-sentence investigation report on or before Dec. 6, 2010.

At the Dec. 16 hearing, Inos will determine Hocog's sentence, with credit for the time he had already served in jail.

Inos accepted Hocog's guilty plea and the plea agreement and ordered him to pay $14,075.37 in restitution, $100 fine, and $100 court assessment fee.

Hocog was also required to perform 200 hours of community service and undergo anger management counseling at the Community Guidance Center. After completing his sentence, Hocog will be placed on supervised probation for five years.

The Office of the Attorney General had charged Hocog with voluntary manslaughter, involuntary manslaughter, aggravated assault and battery, and assault and battery.

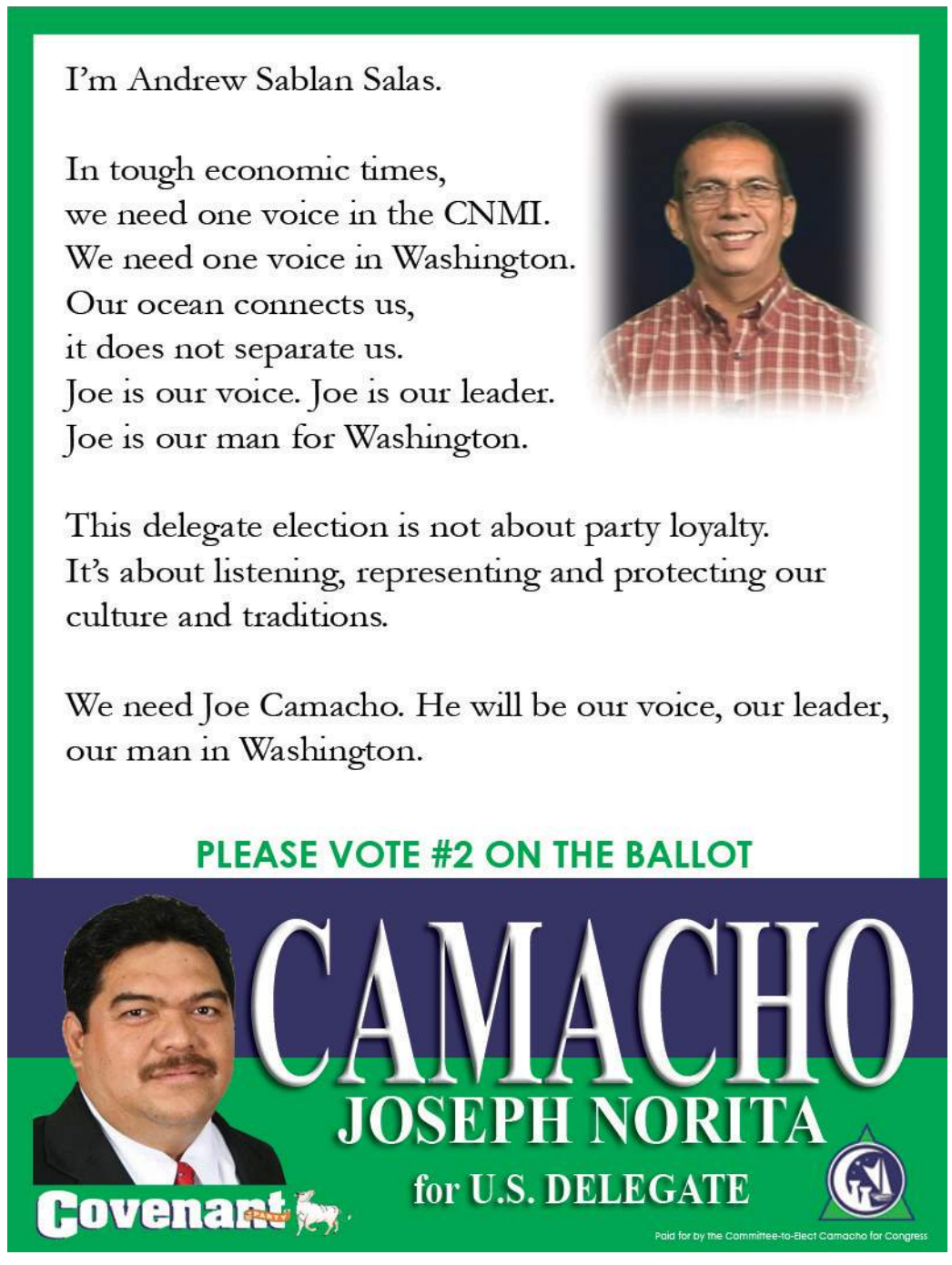
Hocog pleaded guilty to involuntary manslaughter as part of a plea agreement. He was represented by assistant public defender Richard Miller. The government was represented by assistant attorney general Eli D. Golob.

The case arose from a March 1, 2010, incident where Hocog beat up and unintentionally killed Larry Garcia Gonzales.

Inos had initially rejected the plea bargain the government offered to Hocog, saying the terms of the agreement were too lenient. The first plea agreement had proposed a three-year sentence, with Hocog becoming eligible for parole after serving just two years in prison.

This was later amended to a three-year sentence, with credit for the time Hocog had already served in jail. Inos still rejected the agreement.

Police said Hocog punched the 33-year-old Gonzales in the face near Kagman High School. The victim was pronounced dead by a doctor at the Commonwealth Health Center on March 4, 2010, due to severe head injury. Autopsy showed that the victim died due to brain contusion and laceration. Police learned that jealousy triggered the assault on the victim. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***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MELL SENTOSA	045E	10/16 Sat	10/14 Thu	10/14 Thu	10/12 Tue	10/9 Sat	10/22 Fri	10/18 Mon	10/17 Sun	10/10 Sun	10/10 Sun	10/18 Mon	10/22 Fri	10/24 Sun	10/26 Tue
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Inbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETA Guam	ETD Guam	ETA Saipan	ETA Yap	ETA Koror	ETA Davao	ETA GenSan	ETA Cebu	ETA Hongkong	ETA Kaoshiung	ETA Busan	ETA Yokohama	ETA Manila	ETA Singapore
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Zoning board OKs rezoning of Big Boyz property

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Zoning Board unanimously approved the rezoning application filed by Big Boyz Marine to rezone the location of their business property into a mixed commercial district during its board meeting yesterday.

The Big Boyz Marine business located along Chalan Monsignor Guerrero Road was previously zoned as village residential.

The applicant submitted the rezoning application in line with its plans to expand their current business to include commercial automotive painting and repairs.

The Zoning Office staff recommended the approval of the application to the board following the survey of the property and its surrounding areas.

Big Boyz representative Juan Reyes said he is pleased with the approval of their application.

Reyes told *Saipan Tribune* that the property's previous zoning district did not match the business they plan to conduct.

"It's good that they went ahead and changed it to mixed commercial to make it compatible," he said.

Reyes commended the Zoning staff and board for their hard work, which will help change the mindset of people about zoning.

According to Reyes, people who complain to the Legislature that zoning is bad will soon realize that the Zoning Office adapts to what people and businesses need on the island.

Reyes gave credit to board member Diego Blanco whom he described as 'working toward making people understand that zoning is for the best of the island.'

"That's what we need, people that understand the situation," he added.

Reyes said the rezoning of their business property will greatly help in improving their business.

The board also extended the rezoning to portions of the area surrounding the Big Boyz property. It established the affected areas as a village commercial district, which was previously zoned as village residential.

Woman nabbed for alleged 'ice' trafficking

Members of the CNMI Drug Enforcement Task Force arrested Monday a woman who allegedly sold methamphetamine or "ice" near a school on Saipan.

Jinfang Zhang, 41, a Chinese national, was arrested for trafficking of a controlled substance and illegal possession of a controlled substance.

At yesterday's Gerstein hearing, probable cause was found to continue Zhang's detention.

Superior Court associate judge Kenneth Govendo imposed a $40,000 cash bail for Zhang's temporary liberty. Preliminary hearing is on Nov. 10 at 9am.

At the hearing, the prosecution called to the witness stand detective Dennis Reyes, who narrated how Zhang was involved in the 'ice' trafficking that led to her arrest.

There was no information as to how much "ice" was involved in this case. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Oct. 27, 1999

Govt prepares list of projects for $30M loan

The government is expected to receive within the next few weeks the initial batch of the $30 million loan it has secured from Bank of Guam to finance various infrastructure projects on the island, officials said yesterday. Mike Sablan, special advisor for finance and budget, and Rep. Karl T. Reyes, chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, have begun mapping out a plan on how to tap the forthcoming funds as requested by bank officials. "We are working very closely with the Legislature on a drawdown schedule," Sablan told reporters. This plan will include a list of priority projects as well as the amount and release schedule of money necessary to start construction.

CUC orders contractor to open Beach Road to traffic

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. assures its customers this week that traffic is moving on Beach Road. The community utility is improving environmental protection projects along the scenic drive. According to CUC executive director Timothy P. Villagomez, negotiations to ease traffic congestion has been completed. To ensure that customers are now satisfied, utility staff tested the new construction schedule for seven days prior to this release. The utility ordered the contractor to make sure that two lanes of traffic are open at all times during the day. At sunset, workers will be allowed to use one lane of traffic for construction.

Oct. 27, 2000

Feds turn over $12M to CNMI

Office of Insular Affairs director Danny Aranza yesterday turned over $12 million in federal money to the CNMI as he pledged to tap other available resources to assist the Commonwealth government. A total of $11 million will be channeled for Capital Improvement Projects in Fiscal Year 2001, the appropriation set aside by the Department of the Interior under Covenant funding. The remaining $1 million is the federal government's reimbursement to the Northern Marianas for the cost of hosting the immigrants from Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia and the Marshall Islands.

Senate eyes $10M for critical programs

Some $10 million is expected to be earmarked by the Senate to key agencies and critical programs of the government before giving its stamp of approval to the proposed FY 2001 budget package drawn up by the House of Representatives. Senators are using the FY 2000 budget vetoed by Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio as a guideline in the ongoing review to produce their own proposal, according to Fiscal Affairs Committee chair Sen. Edward U. Maratita. The previous year's spending level was pegged at $211 million—about $10 million lower than this year's projected revenues of $221.66 million. Maratita said they have agreed to adopt the budget proposal hammered out with the lower house early this year to distribute the resources to various departments and agencies.

Oct. 27, 2002

New water company opens on Saipan

A new water company, with a promise to meet the Commonwealth's drinking water needs and standards, officially opened for business Saturday. With an estimated $700,000 in initial capital, a group of Japanese investors joined forces with three local businessmen in putting up the STAR Marianas, Inc. Armed with its new state-of-the-art water processing equipment and facilities, STAR Marianas, Inc., which is jointly operated by three local businessmen and five Japanese investors—Herman Guerrero, Joe Seman and Dino Jones, and Masanori Ueda, Jun Kitaoka, Mike Wakatsuki, Kenji Mikami and Haruo Miyazaki—came to life with hopes to provide the CNMI with high quality drinking water.

EPA requests proposal for brownfields grant awards

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is accepting proposals for national brownfields assessment, revolving loan fund and cleanup grants. These grants are part of the new Small Business Liability Relief and brownfields Revitalization Act signed by President Bush in January 2002 to help states and communities around the country clean up and revitalize Brownfield sites. As part of his FY2003 budget request, the President has called for a doubling of money for the brownfields program to $200 million. Brownfields are abandoned, idled or under-used industrial and commercial facilities where expansion or redevelopment is complicated by real or perceived environmental contamination.

KILILI SAYS HE WORKS FOR YOU. DOES HE REALLY?

EXPOSED: Kilili's Web of Lies.

Wednesday, April 7, 2010 - Saipan Tribune:
"Permanent status for aliens with US citizen kids, and others."
Delegate Gregorio C. Sablan (D-MP) said yesterday that "there are discussions going that way," referring to a proposal to grant "long-term permanent residency" status to certain groups of individuals, including foreign workers with U.S. citizen children in the CNMI, those with U.S. and FAS citizen spouses and immediate relatives, and CNMI permanent residents."

Thursday, April 8, 2010 - Marianas Variety:
"Permanent residency plan for spouses of US citizens only."
CONGRESSMAN Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan says "the CNMI permanent residency plan beind discussed in the U.S. Senate is intended only for the foreign spouses of U.S. citizens currently residing on the islands who have yet to convert their status and not for long-term non-resident workers."

***In essence, Kilili claims the U.S. Senate came to him, BUT in H.R. 3658 and H.R. 4397, KILILI is the SOLE SPONSOR!**

KILILI has a bad habit of SAYING ONE THING, BUT DOING THE EXACT OPPOSITE!

THIS IS WHAT HE SAID IN 2010:

Wednesday, May 5, 2010 - Marianas Variety:
"NO! to improved status without the NMI Support."
CONGRESSMAN Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan says "he will not let any CNMI Immigration-related legislation go through the U.S. Congress unless it is supported by the people of the Commonwealth."

BUT THIS IS WHAT HE DID IN 2009:

KILILI introduced 2 BILLS in the U.S. Congress in SUPPORT of IMPROVED STATUS for foreigners!

KILILI introduced H.R. 3658 and H.R. 4397 WITHOUT THE SUPPORT OF THE PEOPLE OF THE CNMI!

***KILILI has NOT TOLD the INDIGENOUS PEOPLE about the two bills for improved status for non-residents.**

***MOREOVER, KILILI HAS NOT WITHDRAWN his 2 bills!**

WE ARE AT RISK OF BECOMING MINORITIES IN OUR OWN HOME IF YOU VOTE FOR GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLAN!

What Delegate GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLAN IS NOT TELLING YOU.

1. **KILILI supports improved status for ALL non-resident workers.**

2. **KILILI introduced 2 bills in support of improved status WITHOUT "the support of the people of the Commonwealth."**

3. **Both bills would grant ALL foreign nationals who were in the CNMI before May 8, 2008 the right to stay in the CNMI for 5 years and then be eligible to change their status.**

4. **Both bills would allow the children who were born in the CNMI to foreign parents "REGARDLESS" of their age to sponsor and change the status of their foreign parents.**

5. **H.R. 4397 would grant the U.S. Homeland Security the authority over foreign workers to waive any fees or registration requirements. Kilili's bill will give U.S. Homeland Security full authority over guest workers and the authority to decide who can be allowed to stay and who can be allowed to change their status.**

6. **H.R. 4397 has been referred to the Sub-committee on Immigration, Citizenship, Refugees, Border Security, and International Law since March 1, 2010. (Source: 111th Library of Congress)**

Kilili says, "These people are our neighbors, our friends, our relatives in many cases. We have to make sure that they continue to live and work in the Northern Mariana Islands, just as they always have. THIS IS THEIR HOME!"
(Source: September 2009 Kilili Archives)

Paid for by the CNMI Descents for Self-Government and Indigenous Rights

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MEMBER
The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Learning from Wikileaks

Over the weekend, Julian Assange, the reclusive renegade computer hacker who has made a career of unveiling government and corporate secrets on the whistle-blower website Wikileaks, confounded American policymakers for the second time in three months when he released nearly 400,000 classified field reports from the war in Iraq.

In July, Wikileaks posted 90,000 classified documents describing a litany of strategic setbacks, human rights abuses, and widespread corruption in the government of Afghan President Hamid Karzai. The latest leak of Iraq materials is said to be the largest unauthorized disclosure of secret military documents in U.S. history.

The most recent revelations, which offer evidence of widespread killings and torture of detainees by Iraqi security forces enjoying tacit American approval, and an Iran increasingly emboldened to manipulate events behind the scenes, come at an awkward moment for the Obama administration. While American officials continue to insist that plans to withdraw all U.S. forces from the country by the end of next year remain on track, the documents' description of a country besieged by threats of sectarian violence and at the mercy of meddling neighbors raises the question of whether Iraq would immediately slip back into chaos if U.S. forces left.

Though the general outlines of the new material have been published previously, the Wikileaks cache provides a far more in-depth and specific account of some of the most brutal episodes of the war from the perspective of soldiers on the ground. Among other things, the reports suggest that flagrant human rights abuses by Iraqi government forces widened the sectarian and ethnic divides that continue to frustrate efforts to achieve stability there.

Mr. Assange justified releasing the secret war logs by saying he wanted to expose "the truth" about America's involvement in Iraq. But the U.S. government is investigating him for possible violation of espionage laws, and even some of his supporters reportedly have begun to suspect that he suffers from delusions of grandeur or worse.

Yet, however flawed the messenger may be, Americans ignore the message in these documents at their peril. U.S. military advisers who tolerated the torture and killing of innocent civilians in the name of quickly turning over responsibility for security to Iraqi forces did the country they were trying to help no favors. Indeed, they probably damaged the overall U.S. mission there by inadvertently creating a whole new constellation of grievances for al-Qaida and its allies to exploit.

As U.S. commanders in Afghanistan contemplate a similar accelerated transfer of security responsibilities to indigenous forces in that country, they would do well to remember that turning a blind eye to atrocities committed by allies is unlikely to create the kind of long-term, countrywide stability that eventually would allow U.S. forces to withdraw. On the contrary, tolerating such abuses almost certainly will only prolong the conflict and increase its cost in blood and treasure.

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Bike Trail 11: Destination made it worth the while

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune's *Opinion Section*

As all things must come to an end, our bike trailing has also come to that. It was short-lived, the romance with a Schwinn, a childhood dream that finally became real, never mind that I ended up with a racer rather than a fat-tired suburban bike in the autumn of my years. The flat terrain between San Antonio to Puerto Rico in the lagoon side of Saipan was conducive to pedaling summertime and we took advantage of the leg-stretching, lung-clearing, fresh air-invigorating part of the exercise. The multi-gear, multi-speed bike allowed us to cruise at convenient and comfortable speeds.

We also paid attention to the slower-paced street-level perspective that is afforded one straddling a bike seat from CK to the AMP and, barring the occasional motorist who does not think that pedalers have the same right on the road as four-wheel drivers do, pedaling on Saipan along the pathway is a pleasant and healthy preoccupation.

Our favorite spot for regurgitating the motion meditation that comes with biking is at the open mini-amphitheatre by the tank on Quartermaster Rd. that Ivan Groom and Patrick Calvo constructed to demonstrate various mitigating methods (including aesthetic and functional appeal) to stem the erosive and other destructive effect of water runoff from island slopes and human dwellings into the lagoon. Its demonstrative power has not been utilized well in educating people but, save for the planned rain-catchment, solar-powered demo restroom that has become a favorite target of graffiti artists, the system in place has weathered the test of time as well as endured the less-than-conscientious users.

We are evangelist to the gospel of green living, and biking is one of those multi-effecting activities that benefit personal health and the environment. Perhaps, organizers of the *Sabalu* market might encourage its patrons on Saturdays to come on their bikes to purchase their fresh produce. Parks and Recreation with CHC and all the island health providers might sponsor bike-related events for children, youth and adults. Businesses might even install bike rails in front of their establishments.

The anti-diabetic effect of biking alone would be worth the effort. But I am not writing something that is not commonly known. Ours is not a contradiction in wisdom; ours is a fallen-ness into contemporary slothful comfort and ease. We grab the car key just for a quick run to the neighborhood store, and for what? Saving time to be more slouching couch potatoes, that's what. Just look at our obesity rate as an island and as a nation, and we won't look far to discover the lardy layer lining our living.

The Age of Anxiety is not just the title of a well-read book; it is also a descriptive phrase for our time. "Time is money," we say, and our obsession with money makes us adopt a profitable lifestyle where to engage in anything is to do so with less effort and less time. We thus gain in the commercial equation. Failures of achievement result in pain, dealt with singularly or in combination by physical therapists (we should all have our own massage-gates!), the ubiquitous analgesic that is in everyone's medicine cabinet, not to mention the reliance on prescriptive painkillers and relaxing/entertainment drugs.

Thirty minutes on the bicycle and 15 on a bench by the lagoon watching the horizon like the fabulous sunset and the green flash will do more mental equanimity, cervical tranquility, and vertebral equilibrium than anything the pharmacist has to offer.

But the most valuable biking effect is one's proximity to the ground, literally and figuratively. Something about our sense of physical balance suffered with our appropriation of electronic speed as a mode of lifestyle operation. "Being at the edge" is synonymous with being touchy and anxious, most of which is a function of the mind rather than being physically grounded in reality. Gut-trip has been replaced by head-trip and, though admittedly we are quicker to the draw with the lip rather than the tip of the dueling epee, the mental luggage on this journey shift is costly. Ever watched how a fastfood employee behave? Ever wonder at the high employment turnover rate, other than it is advantageous for fastfood service operators to have a steady supply of well-trained labor that can be paid cheaply and discarded easily? Yes, timekeepers and bean counters are now the favored personnel of any organization!

No offense to the mainstream nationwide fastfood service providers. (That includes Joe A.) I do patronize them when I have a few more jingles in my pocket but not too often for the added lump they invariably add to the girth. We are harping at the prevalent phenomenon of substituting efficiency for effectivity, appearance for authenticity, and this holds true across all service providing agencies. Biking reminds me of the human scale with its generous allowance for "error," a virtue we may not want to discard too quickly.

Age and a steep incline in our new location necessitate the passing off of the bike to sturdier legs. This ends our bike trails, but we could start hiking trails!?! Anyone see my sun visor and sunshade?

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Poverty and prosperity

First of a two-part series

Recently, a friend and I had a discussion that had me thinking about the assumptions people make about individuals and nations that are classified as poor or poverty-stricken.

This is not meant to be a definitive treatise on the definition and dilemma, nor the causes and consequences nor the solutions and salvation for these concepts we call "poverty" and "prosperity." It is offered as a peek into some thoughts that might allow you to step outside common assumptions and the standard paradigm in order to add some new ways of looking at things.

A few thoughts about nations

As it affects nations, poverty is a condition of the environment brought about by the manipulation of economic and societal forces. A nation can be afflicted with poverty for many reasons.

Nations can become poor if their resources—human and mineral—are exploited for the benefit of another nation's prosperity.

Nations can become poor if wars are fought on their soil, and their infrastructure, and the will of the people are destroyed.

A nation can sink deeper into poverty if it becomes easier for it to rely on outside help than to become self-sufficient. For example, if, because of trade regulations or government subsidies for citrus farmers in one rich nation, it becomes cheaper for a poorer nation to import oranges than grow them itself, then this makes poverty and dependence more likely.

A nation can also sink deeper into poverty if farmers are not allowed to grow and store their own seeds. For example, if they are forced—by market practices and trade regulations—to purchase the genetically-modified/owned seeds of a corporation in a prosperous country, then they will never develop the means for their own economic independence.

In our carefully constructed, man-made society, nothing happens by accident. Everything is by design. Laws and regulations are created for a purpose and with an agenda. Think about it. If there is a natural desire and urge in humans toward survival and self-sufficiency, and if a tree will grow by simply planting a seed, then what accounts for the inability of a person and ultimately a nation, to begin to extricate itself from poverty? In other words, no nation simply arrives at a state of poverty and dependence randomly. There are many external forces at play that one should consider in any discussion about poverty as it affects nations.

It's all a construct, my friend

Similarly, when you talk about individual achievements of financial success within a society, there are many things that we take to be normal, that are not, in fact, natural.

Remember this: this thing we call financial success, this idea we call wealth, this aspiration we call prosperity is based on a construct that says, among other things, *more is better, the earth is ours to rape and pillage, consumerism is the order of the day, we must keep getting richer and richer by any means necessary*. This "infinite growth through greed" concept is an unnatural construct imposed on the masses by ways of thought that are not in alignment with the natural order of things. A civilization could just as easily choose to base its civilization upon harmony, sustainability, and meeting (not exceeding) the needs of the people, as Gandhi famously said.

So, when you look at a nation that is not prosperous within this unnatural construct, and notice within that society the existence of other such factors of low morale, low self-esteem, inferiority complexes, educational deficits, etc, and then equate them, you may be committing a cardinal sin of analysis: equating correlation with causation. You think, "because these two factors exist together, one must cause the other."

Similarly, when you look at a person who is not prosperous, and then conclude that there must be something "wrong" with him or her that is causing their economic state, you are similarly using an invalid yardstick for measurement.

In fact, everything's a construct.

Now, if, for some reason, you DO want to make such assessments of better than or worse than, I suggest to you this: that the standards by which an individual or nation are judged as desirable, valuable, worthy, good, or bad, if you will, etc.,

(a) have nothing to do with what we consider education (because that, too, is a construct of society which determines what information is considered valuable, and which is not.)

(b) have nothing to do with what we consider beauty (because that, too is a construct of society which determines which features and appearance is considered attractive, and which are not)

(c) have nothing to do with anything constructed. You can choose to find and use different measurements and means for determining what is desirable, authentic, good and bad in your world.

The Saipanpreneur Project

Creating economic success for the CNMI

By WALT F.J. GOODRIDGE
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Send article suggestions, entrepreneur nominations and feedback about this article to walt@passionprofit.com.

Remember: If it's not natural, it's a construct.

When I say that something is a "construct," I simply mean it has been constructed. It is something decided and agreed upon first by a few, then by the followers in a group or society ostensibly to ensure the survival of that group or society. Just think about what qualifies as "education" and "required reading" when one nation falls under the control of another. It's all just a construct, you see. It's an idea that has been accepted and adopted as normal, but it's not necessarily the natural order of things. It's just a decision. Every distinct and separate group can decide to create and live according to different constructs.

The point, here.

So, (and I finally get to one of my points), if you experience poverty, whether in your personal life, or as a nation, it has nothing to do with any inherent inferiority—there's nothing genetically wrong—in your makeup. The inability or choice not to function in a certain way and produce specific results in what is an unnatural environment, should never be used to assign value and worth to an individual, group or nation. Similarly, just because most everyone has decided to play an alien game, does not make those who are playing it, any "better" than those who do not. It just means they've decide to practice, play and master the game. But, the game itself, you see, is flawed.

To be continued.

Walt F.J. Goodridge is author of 16 books including Turn Your Passion Into Profit*. He offers coaching and workshops to help people pursue and profit from their passions. Originally from the island of Jamaica, Walt has grown several successful businesses in the U.S., and now lives a nomadpreneur lifestyle. To learn more, visit www.passionprofit.com.*

Elusive needle of self-definition

We've searched for it, found it, threw it right back into a stack of marshland reed to begin the search anew. Call it dismissive redundancy.

Like a piece of useful tool, we ignored it until the time came to use it, but can't find it anywhere. It must be an island conundrum where we repeat, time and again, the wonderful indigenous mañana syndrome.

What made matters worse is our special ability to find scapegoats for ALL our inadequacies. Unfortunately, the usual scapegoats have gone home to rest, too. On a personal basis, the only remnants of this misplaced attitude are the three people I know best: me, myself and I.

Stunning our dismissive negligence or grand sense of purposeful amnesia. It seems we've opted to ignore the lessons of history. Thus, the return to the Land of Redundancy!

■ ■ ■

Over the years, I've gone soul searching, with hope of understanding what is it that we seem to have missed that led to the dysfunctional relationship with the U.S. today. It brings into center stage whether the agreement was simply a deal: money for us, land for the U.S. We seem to have missed the boat in the requisite responsibility of citizens to understanding the first principles that led to the founding of our country some 232 years ago.

Too, we seem to be harboring a certain uneasiness we could neither grasp nor dispel because of some unnamed fear of sort. It's inexplicably difficult to dismiss after 32 years under the agreement. Yet, we're like a child who's torn apart a clock and has given up reconstructing it because he doesn't know what screw goes where to ensure a functioning clock once more. Appalling how after 32 years we still grope for answers in our relationship with the federal government.

■ ■ ■

Indeed, there's the flip side that we had to contend with as we try to advance principle-based decisions to ward off federal agenda designed to compromise the intent of the Covenant Agreement on mutual concerns and other issues. There's legitimacy in local reactions to protect the letter and spirit of the agreement.

Unwilling to meet the NMI halfway, we had to endure the devastating effects of lack of requisite regulations per U.S. Public Law 110-229 on immigration. Regulations are still being drafted while the vacuum fails to cushion the permanent and devastating loss of investments. Both sides of the Pacific Divide must share the blame for negligence resulting from the lack of vision.

We may disagree with brutal honesty, but it doesn't mean the imposition of arrogance hailing from thousands of miles from the shores of the NMI. In fact, both sides should have converged to trump out what's coming down the pike so there's a sense of organization what to expect as U.S. Homeland Security scribbles new regulations on immigration. The devastation of insensitivity is the net result from both sides.

As such, there's the division and polarization of our people on labor and immigration per U.S. Public Law 110-229. While I support the privilege of foreign workers to better their lot (as it is only human), the attainment of U.S. citizenship must follow procedure under the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Act. You may disagree, but the law must be followed to the letter. The Covenant doesn't provide for "grandfathering" of foreigners, pure and simple. In the interim, we must realistically assess labor requirements of ongoing tourist related businesses here.

■ ■ ■

In meeting the federal contingent, we must endeavor to promote synergistic paradigms in the formulation of short and long-term economic policies for the NMI. We must come to the table prepared to work out protectionist and regressive constitutional and statutory policies that have discouraged lasting investments here. This is the difficult aspect of the planning process. It would involve a decision from the local people on such matters as the final disposition of Article XII.

The peculiarity of this constitutional provision is responsible for the cancellation of about $1.5 billion in investments and the loss of over 1,000 jobs in the mid-'90s. Investors have gone tired of having to parade into court for lack of protection.

Indeed, deliberative discussion is a must on this matter. At the end of the day, it is really up to us to maintain the status quo where nothing happens or move beyond the "feel good" aspect of Article XII in search of prosperity. It's all in the palm of our hands!

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

DelRosario is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune's *Opinion Section*

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Where's my check?

I'm curious. I've been reading the *Saipan Tribune* for the past several months now and noticed two articles printed in July that paraphrased the governor and quoted the head of the tax bureau on the release of the tax refund checks.

According to the articles in early July, 9,000 checks were waiting to be issued and the governor stated he would not hold them hostage and would allow them to be released.

Fast forward to today, it is almost Halloween, a full 90-plus days after these articles were printed and what do I have? Nothing. No check, no promise of when it will be released. Nothing. Seven months and counting after I filed my taxes.

The CNMI has a stranglehold on my rebate, and 9,000 others, tighter than an MMA wrestler doing a rear reverse naked chokehold on his opponent, with no sign of release even after some of us have turned blue in the face, are ready to pass out, and are tapping out.

Now here is the problem with this scenario. If I owed the CNMI money they would take the money out of my paycheck, no questions asked, with high interest and stiff penalties. When I get paid they still are there with their hands out and take their share out, even with the fact that they still owe me money. What if I told the CNMI I refuse to pay taxes until I have recovered what money they owe me? They wouldn't like that too well, so what about if they just pay me and the other 9,000 people they owe money to and man up like they said they would in July. I pay my taxes when I get paid, so the CNMI should pay their bills and obligations when they are supposed to.

Release the checks from your stranglehold and man up and do what is in the best interest of the CNMI residents or resign your positions and let someone else who will release the checks take over.

Keith Brooks
Dandan, Saipan

The Weather

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

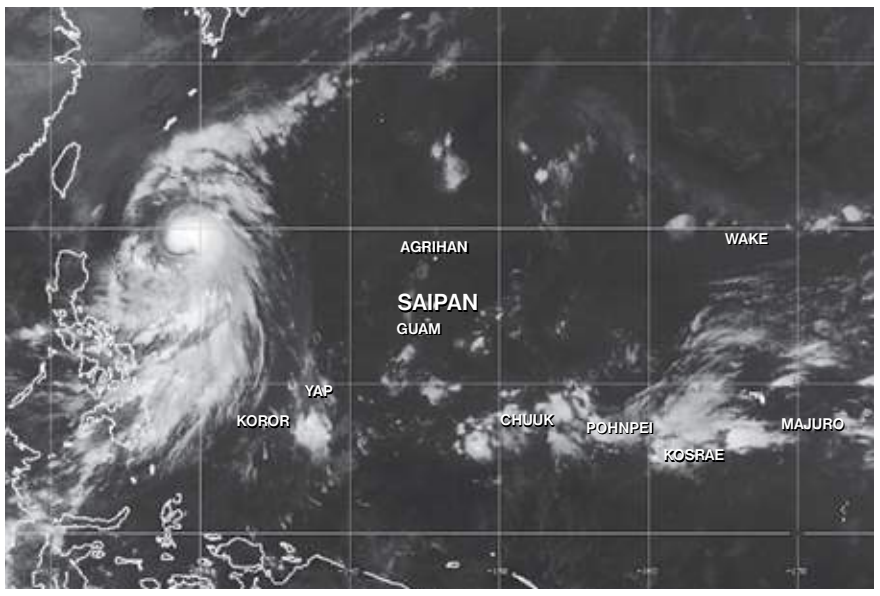
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲86	▼79
Palau	Showers	▲86	▼78
Yap	Partly Sunny	▲88	▼78
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼77
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼75
Kosrae	Rain	▲89	▼77
Majuro	Mostly Sunny	▲84	▼77

Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲65	▼54
Beijing	Sunny	▲60	▼38
Hong Kong	Sunny	▲76	▼57
Honolulu	Showers	▲85	▼75
London	Showers	▲56	▼52
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲78	▼57
Manila	Thundershowers	▲86	▼75
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲75	▼46
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲87	▼74
New York	Showers	▲72	▼55
Osaka	Showers	▲61	▼53
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	▲56	▼40
Pusan	Sunny	▲64	▼53
Rome	Sunny	▲63	▼45
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	▲56	▼44
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	▲69	▼57
Seoul	Sunny	▲58	▼40
Tokyo	Showers	▲61	▼52
Washington, DC	Showers	▲75	▼59

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2010
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Tropical Storm Chaba (16W) is centered well west of the Marianas near 18N130E. Chaba is moving northwest at 7 mph with maximum sustained winds of 65 mph. Showers and thunderstorms are found west of a line extending from 8N130E to 14N134E to 20N134E to 25N130E. For additional information on Tropical Storm Chaba, refer to National Weather Service public advisories issued under WMO header WTPQ32 PGUM and JTWC bulletins issued under WMO header WTPN32 PGTW. A surface trough extends northeastward from 5N140E to 10N146E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found ahead of the trough near Yap and Koror within 100 miles of a line extending from 3N131E to 9N139E. Trade-wind convergence stretching across Chuuk to the Marshall Islands is producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms within 150 miles of a line extending across Chuuk and north of Pohnpei from 5N149E to 10N166E near Kosrae between 4N and 7N from 163E to 169E and southeast of Wake Island within 100 miles of a line extending from 13N169E to 20N180.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

3:59 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet
11:11 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
4:30 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.3 Feet
9:09 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:11 AM	5:50 PM
Thursday	6:12 AM	5:50 PM
Friday	6:12 AM	5:49 PM
Saturday	6:12 AM	5:49 PM
Sunday	6:13 AM	5:49 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	9:07 PM	9:37 AM
Thursday	10:05 PM	10:31 AM
Friday	11:04 PM	11:24 AM
Saturday		12:14 PM
Sunday	12:03 AM	1:01 PM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 13, 2010

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily
C09313	7:55am	8:45am	3, 6
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09605	6:20pm	7:10pm	Daily
C09599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:00am	8:35am	Daily
DL285	6:40am	9:15am	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ604	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ604/701	2:20am	11:25am	1 via ICN
C09316/893	2:45am	9:00am	3, 6 via GUM-Palau
OZ604/701	2:50am	11:25am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
DL287/173	6:00am	10:55pm	Daily via NRT
C09603/933	3:05pm	8:40pm	Daily via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:30pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ604/721	2:20am	11:45am	1 via ICN
OZ604/721	2:50am	11:45am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/909	3:05pm	9:25pm	1, 5 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09316	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
C09596	6:35am	7:25am	3, 6
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:05pm	Daily
DL286	3:50pm	8:25pm	Daily
DL288	8:40pm	1:15am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ605	9:00am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ704/605	12:10am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
DL172/173	7:50am	1:10am+1	Daily via NRT
OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C0892/9316	4:15pm	3:35am+1	3, 6 via GUM-Palau
PR110/C0596	10:00pm	7:25am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
C0934/9596	10:55pm	7:50am+1	Daily via GUM

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/605	12:30am	2:30pm	2 ,4 ,6, 7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C0910/9596	10:30pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily
FRE 113	11:40	11:50	Daily
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

A CAREER WHERE X-RAY VISION AND FEDERAL BENEFITS COME STANDARD

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Transportation Security Administration

U.S. Citizenship Required.
TSA is an Equal Opportunity Employer.
Must be 18 years of age to apply.

This U.S. Delegate Election is a crucial election for the people of the CNMI.

The outcome of this election will substantially determine the future prosperity of the CNMI.

This is why I am supporting Joe Camacho for Delegate.

Joe is qualified and has our best interests at heart.

Joe can reach across party lines and bring people together for the people.

I'm Edward Masga Deleon Guerrero, and I'm for Joe.
Let's get together and vote for Joe.

PLEASE VOTE #2 ON THE BALLOT

CAMACHO
JOSEPH NORITA
for U.S. DELEGATE

Covenant

Paid for by the Committee-to-Elect Camacho for Congress

WATER TASK FORCE

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP 11-GOV-006

Construction Management/Contract Compliance For Water Task Force Projects

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the CNMI Water Task Force (WTF), are soliciting sealed Proposals from qualified Consultants to provide Construction Management/Contract Compliance Services for various WTF contracts and projects.

The project Scope of Work will be available on or after **October 27, 2010** at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan.

All questions concerning this proposal shall be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 pm, **November 3, 2010** to Pedro Sasamoto, WTF Program Manager (facsimile) number (670) 664-2279.

This project is funded by a grant from the Office of Insular Affairs (OIA), Department of the Interior.

Award of this project is contingent upon receipt of project approval from OIA. The proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 70-30.3-305. Preference per Public Law 15-95 as further amended by Public Law 15-118 is not available in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funds for this project.

Proposals must be sealed and marked **"Construction Management/Contract Compliance", RFP 11-GOV-006.** One (1) original and four (4) copies must be submitted. Sealed proposals must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply, at Lower Base, Saipan, no later than **3:00 p.m., November 29, 2010 (CNMI local time).**

The CNMI reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any proposal if to do so will be in the best interest of the CNMI. All proposals shall become the exclusive property of the CNMI government.

/s/ **BENIGNO R. FITIAL**
Governor

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement and Supply

What do they have in common?

Zaldy Dandan, Ruth L. Tighe, Tony Pellegrino, William Stewart, Tina Sablan, Ed Propst, Frederick Prosser, Francisco R. Agulto, Greg Cruz, Rik Villegas. In their own ways these individuals have personally committed themselves to the welfare of our islands. In their own way they have suggested innumerable ideas to rescue our islands from disaster—to no avail. That list of their ideas is too lengthy and tiring to repeat but one damning fact is certain: the core fault of why there is no money in the government's coffers—to prevent layoffs and shutdowns, to pay vendors and obligations to the retirees, and to move the CNMI forward without total dependence on the free monetary handouts from the federal government ($260 million plus $100 million ARRA since 2009)—lies with the singular branch of government called the Legislature.

For these legislators the height of irresponsibility is staggering. They and only they (not the governor) are tasked with passing laws that are expected to generate monies for the community. They failed and are continuing to fail. Instead they pass laws that can be repealed and laws that give struggling businesses massive coronary attacks. The laws these legislators pass are not only inane, but are also designed to line their own and their relatives', politicos' and gofers' pockets during and after their term. Many of these legislators are smugly corrupt, destructively incompetent, malfeasant as expected and pack the government in nepotism to foster even greater incompetence. We can only expect more of the same. And the rotten core of the problem? The handful of aging graybeards who believe it is their right to be your "public servant." B.S. Let's eviscerate them.

Many of these legislators are known illiterates and amateurs and can never deliver what they are elected to do. Easy targets for the gluttonous graybeads to corrupt the wide-eyed and newly elected officials. There were some former elected officials that weren't seduced. Quick to mind, but not limited to, were representatives Christina Sablan, Absalon Waki, Cinta Kaipat, Candy Taman, Fricka Pangelinan and a few others from both chambers. They were railroaded out of office for not playing the game.

How do we get our community to move forward again? Give them a jolt of reality: Vote out of office this gang of decomposing dinosaurs and deadwoods; these bums who among them account for over 100 years of ill-service and political showboating; and who've learned how to play to the voters while appearing "official" in nice shirts and ties and studiously concerned during photo-ops. Their rhetoric are fairy tales designed to do absolutely nothing while wasting taxpayers monies.

Let's take a chance and get new blood up on the hill. Let's re-elect the few who are performing or bring back former elected officials who tried their best. What do we have to lose? Absolutely nothing.

Lee Andersen
via email

Thank you

In Sung aka Joe, who was a son, a brother, and a friend, left this world on Oct. 4, 2010. He will always live in our hearts, thoughts and prayers. Joe was born a Korean but grew up and lived for 17 years on Saipan and became what we remembered of him until that last day he left us.

Joe was loved and truly was part of our island community in his own special way. He roamed Garapan freely and exercised his right as a free person in America. In Sung Lee is proof that any one of us can live the life we choose to live (words of Mr. Thomas Thornburgh, NMPASI projects specialist, as printed in the *Saipan Tribune* on Oct. 8, 2010). We believe that it was from the support and love of the people that Joe was able to live the life he wished to live.

His funeral was held on Oct. 22, 2010. People who loved him and cared for him—Koreans, Chamorros, Americans, Japanese, Chinese, etc.—shared their sadness and pain with us. Although different in nationality and race, everyone gathered as one island community to say their last goodbyes to Joe.

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to all the people who were there for Joe at his funeral. A sincere thank you to Mr. Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan who personally wrote a letter of condolence, and former governor Juan N. Babuata, who was a good adviser to Joe when he was alive, for participating in his burial. Last but not least, to Mr. Ham Hambros, the driver of the vehicle. We were informed that he is only 19 years old. We do not have any hatred or resentment toward him. He is also a part of the community that Joe had once loved. We also take part in his sadness. Especially in this time of difficulties on our island of Saipan, may God bless Joe and this place forever. From the family of In Sung aka Joe.

Chang Sub Lee
Papago, Saipan

On the dot

This letter is in response to Mr. Anthony Pellegrino's article in your Opinion section on Oct. 25, 2010. I've lived on this island for more than 45 years now and I have never in my lifetime heard anybody talk like Mr. Pellegrino does regarding our relationship with the United States of America. Thank you Mr. Pellegrino for voicing your concern in straightening our relationship status and position with the U.S. You are on the right dot and right track regarding your opinion. I for one agree with everything you said in your article. I am looking forward to meeting you for further discussion pertaining to this matter of great importance to the USA and the CNMI. God bless America and I pray for a better relationship.

Thomas Aquino Cabrera Camacho
Chalan Piao, Saipan

No to more incompetence

This is in response to Mr. Pelligrino, I respect all of your articles that you have written here. But I feel as a federal taxpayer that you are starting to pander to the whims of the same people that put the CNMI in the situation that it is in! I know they owe you money. But, in the same breath, how in God's name can you say, understand us? How many more millions of dollars will it take? I'm a licensed plumber and cannot fathom what's going on with the potable water problem! Looking to retire there but that does not seem feasible. It's time for the feds to come in and take total control so we don't have to waste any more money on incompetence!

J. Kumnick
via e-mail

Zip up

I read Mr. Ambrose Bennett's letter regarding "teachers are good voters." That's good but what is Mr. Bennett's point? His letter is nothing more than hyperactive supercharged rhetoric. Is Mr. Bennett suggesting that teachers behave just like he does when voting in the CNMI? Is it Mr. Bennett's assertion that the rest of CNMI voters are inferior voters that do not know much about what they are voting for? It is too close to the election and if Mr. Bennett is smart enough, he should zip up and not run afoul with likely voters who are following the candidate he is discreetly putting in the hide mode.

Francisco R. Agulto
Chalan Kanoa, Saipan

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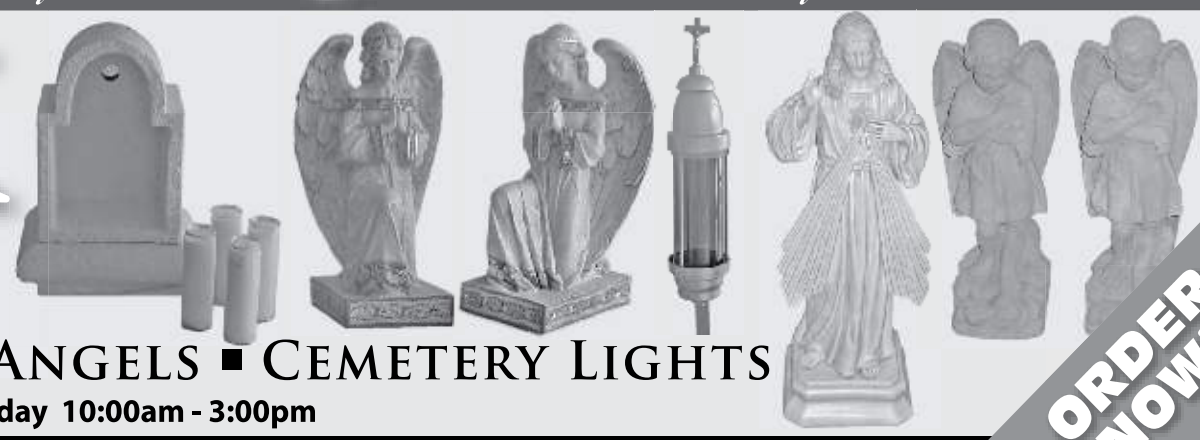

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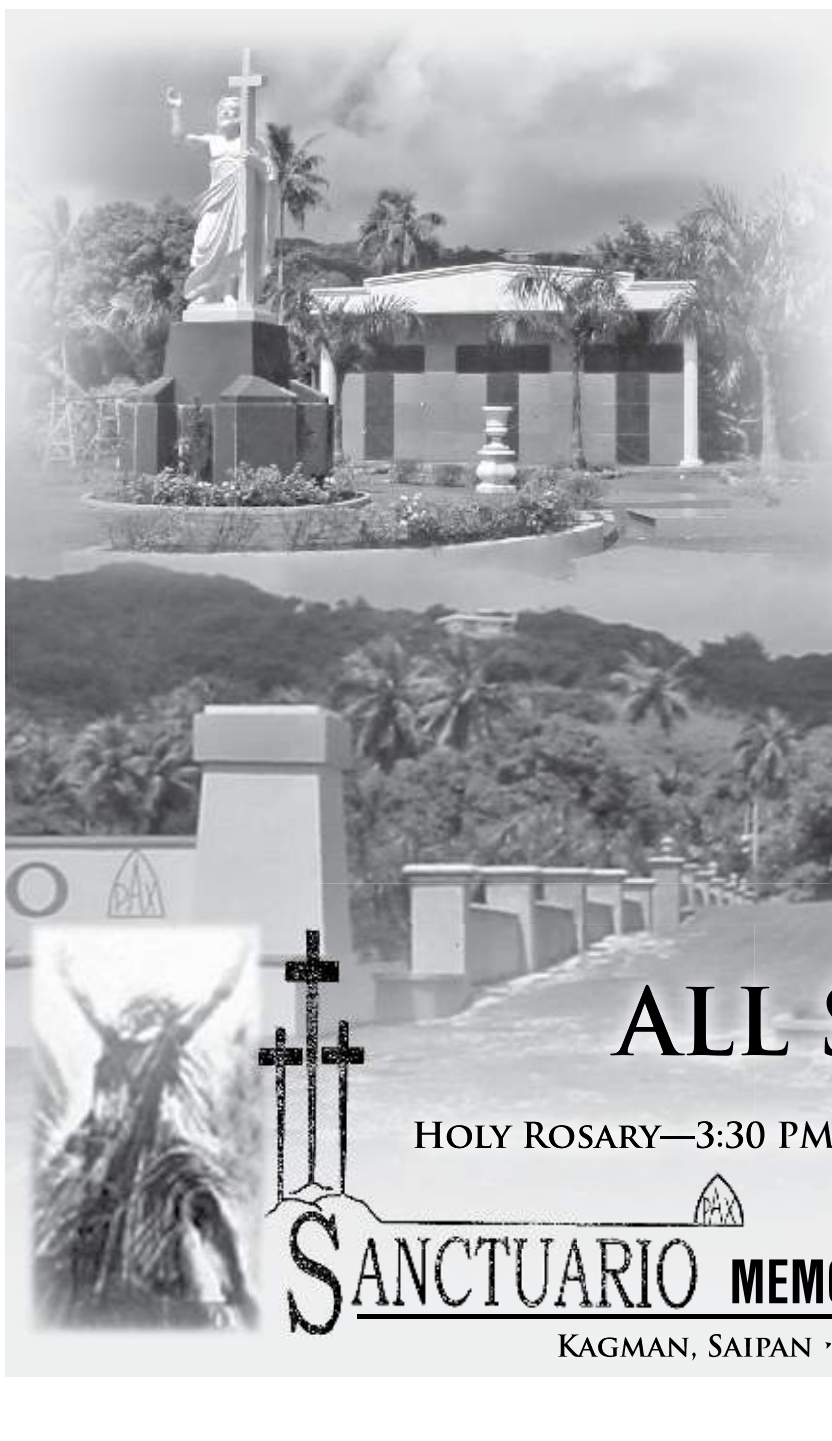

"May the angels lead you into paradise, may the martyrs come to welcome you and take you to the holy city, the new and eternal Jerusalem. May the choir of angels welcomes you and lead you where Lazarus is poor no longer. May you find eternal rest….."

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House Legislative Initiative 16-13

House legislative Initiative 16-13 proposes to amend Article III, section 20 of the NMI Constitution. The legislature has found that as a result of the declining economy and the increase in retirement benefits for its members as listed in their findings, the CNMI government has been unable to make necessary contributions to the Retirement Fund. The result of the CNMI government's diminished contributions has resulted in the Retirement Fund not being fully funded. Accordingly, the legislature finds that it is necessary to prevent the CNMI legislature from increasing benefits to members of the Retirement fund until the CNMI government has either satisfied its obligations to the Fund or the system is fully funded.

Pros:

- *This initiative attempts to ensure the protection of the current benefits that the Retirees and active members have and expect.*
- *By ensuring that the legislature cannot increase benefits to the retirement fund, the government's liability will not be further increased.*
- *This amendment attempts to prevent further harm to the Retirement fund from the pressure of providing greater benefits to its members.*

Cons:

- *This proposed amendment doesn't allow for the "what if situations" when benefits in certain areas may need to be adjusted or increased.*
- *The initiative doesn't define what satisfying government obligations means and therefore, it leaves room for interpretation as to when benefits can be increased.*
- *The initiative allows for new benefits to retirement members once either obligations have been satisfied or the system is fully funded, however if obligations have been satisfied but the Retirement fund is not fully funded, new liabilities could be created.*

House Legislative Initiative 16-13 ha propone para u amenda i Attikulu III, gi seksiona 20 gi Konstitusion NMI. I leyeslatura ha sodda' na komu i resutta na tumutunuk i ekonomia yan kumahulo' i benefisio gi ritiru para i miembro-ña siha komu malista gi sinedda'-ñiha, i gobietnamenton CNMI hagas ha' ti ha na'siña fuma'tinas i kontribusion siha guatu para i Fondon Ritiru. I resutta gi gobietnamenton CNMI mumenus i kontribusion siha ni ha na'annok gi halom i Fondon Ritiru na ti kabåles mafondo. Sigun, i leyeslatura ha sodda' na nisisårio na u atåha i leyeslaturan CNMI kontra u ma'umenta i benifisio siha para i todu i miembron i Fondon Ritiru estaki i gobietnamenton CNMI ha pat ha na'satisfecho i obligasion siha para i Fondo pat i sistema u mana'kabåles fumondo.

Fumabot:

- *Este na initiative ha chagi na para u na'siguru i proteksion i prisente na benefisio siha na i ritirão yan i manmachocho'cho' na miembr siha manggai yan ma'ekspekta.*
- *U mana'siguru na i leyeslatura ti siña ha håtsa i benefisio siha para i fondon ritiru, i liability gi gobietnamento ti u masigi mahåtsa.*
- *Este na amendasion ha chagi para u atåha mås i tinailayi para i fondon Ritiru ginen i hineño' gi prinebibiyi mås benefisio para i miembro-ña siha.*

Kinentra:

- *Este i mapropone na amendasion ti ha sedi para i "Håfa yanggen i sichuasion" yanggen ngai'an i benefisio siha gi palu na manera siña manesisita para u na'måolek pat u håtsa.*
- *I Initiative ti ha defina i håfa muna'satisfefecho i obligasion i gobietnamento siha ayo na rason, na nina'i kåmpo para u mapula' komu para ngai'an nai siña ma'umenta i benefisio siha.*
- *I Initiative ha sedi para i nuebu na benefisio para i miembron i ritiru siha un biåhi pat i obligasion siha na mansatisfecho pat i sistema mafondo kabåles, lão yanggen i obligasion mansatisfecho lão i fondon Ritiru ti mafondo kabåles, i nuebu na liabilities siña mafa'tinas.*

House Legislative Initiative 16-13 ekke pomwoli ebwe siweli Article III, Talil 20 mellól Allegh Lapalap.Sów Ffééról Allégh nge ebwal schuungi bwelle weiresil reel ekkonomia me sássáril benefisio ngáliir membro kka re elo llól lista, CNMI government nge esáál kke atotoolong salaapial llól Retirement Fund. Bwelle igha ese kke ghówutá salaapial gobenno, ebwal kke aweiresi fundool Retirement Fund. Schéschéél, Sów Ffééról Allégh e schuungi bwe e pirisisu bwe CNMI legislature ebwe amweri fischi sássáril benefisio ngáliir membrool Retirement Fund, ngáre schagh CNMI government e féérú yaal tarabwaagho reel ebwe abwóssuuw me bwuley yeel aa aghówulong salaapial.

GHATCHÚL:

- *Plóóno yeel ebwe alughulugh bwe aa yoor ammwelil benefisio ye ighila igha membrool Schóóy Aséésé (Retirees) me schóóy angaang kka ighila.*
- *Ngáre re alughulugh bwe sów ffééról allégh essóbw sárághi benefisio ngáli retirement fund, bwángil gobenno nge essóbw lapaló.*
- *Lliwel yeel ebwe afelli Retirement Fund bwe essóbw yoor fitighoghol bwelle sássáril benefisio ngáliir membro.*

NNGÓWAL:

- *Pomwol ssiwel nge essóbw lighiti ngáli ("what if situations") ngáre benefissio mellól akkááw bwuley re tipeli ebwe ssiwel (adjusted) mesássár.*
- *Plóóno yeel nge ese apasa meeta weweel "satisfying government obligation" me bwal eew, aa yoor atol aweewe, ileet schóóy benefissio rebwe sássár.*
- *Plóóno yeel ebwe alisiir schóóy benefissio kka re fféélong llól membrool retirement ngáre schagh aa yoor salaapial me aa ghówulong salaapial system, bwal eew ngáre obligation yeel e abwósóló nge Retirement fund ese ghówulong fundool, ebwe yoor eew angaangal ye e ffé.*

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House Legislative Initiative 16-18

House Legislative Initiative 16-18 proposes to amend Article XI, Section 5(g) of the CNMI Constitution to authorize the Department of Public Lands to use up to twenty percent of its revenue to pay and satisfy land compensation claims; and for other purposes. The legislature states that the CNMI government has taken land from owners for public purposes such as roads and highways and has yet to reimburse over 100 land compensation claims. The legislature further states that it is the Department of Public Lands that receives money from public land leases, permits and other uses. Therefore because of this role, DPL should use twenty percent of its revenue to pay and satisfy land compensation claims as provided by law.

Pros:

- *The proposed amendment attempts to ensure that land owners who have not been compensated for their land claims will be compensated.*
- *By requiring DPL to use 20% of their revenue to pay land compensation, the central government's liability will decrease.*
- *This provision identifies a source of money that is related to public lands to be used for payment for private lands that have been acquired for public use.*
- *It ensures a continued stream of money to Marianas Public Land Trust by limiting the amount that can be used to satisfy land claims to twenty percent of the revenue.*

Cons:

- *Although the provision authorizes the possible use of income from public lands, it does not require that such income be used or that any land compensation claim actually be paid.*
- *Requiring DPL to use 20% of their revenues for land compensation reduces resources that could be used for its operations.*
- *This proposed amendment will affect the amount of money that is put into Marianas Public Land Trust every year.*
- *The proposed amendment does not limit land compensation claims from being addressed by DPL and not the central government.*

House Legislative Initiative 16-18 ha propopone na para u amenda i Attikulu XI, Seksiona 5(g) gi Konstitusion CNMI na para u åturisa i Dipattamenton Tano' Pupbliku na para u usa más hulo' ki i bente pot siento gi apas kontribusion-ña para u apåsi yan u na'satisfecho i land compensation claims; yan para otro manera siha. I leyeslatura ha sångan na i gobietnamenton CNMI ha mañule' tåno' ginen i manduenñu para uson pupbliku siha tåt komu chålan yan highway siha yan siempre ha nana'lo más ki 100 land compensation claims. I leyeslatura más ha sångan na i Dipattamenton Tåno' Pupbliku siha na ha risibi salåppe' ginen i manmanatkikila tano' pupbliku siha, permits yan otro usu siha. Pues ayo na i che'cho' i, DPL debi na u usa i bente pot siento gi apas kontribusion-ña para u apåsi yan u satisfecho i land compensation claims komu mapribeniyi ni lai.

Fumabot:

- *I mapropone na amendasion machagi para u mana'siguru na i dueñon tåno' siha ni ti manma'apåsi para i claim tano'-ñiha siempre manma'apåsi.*
- *Ginen i dinimåndan i DPL na para u usa 20% gi iyon-ñiha revenue para u ma'apåsi i land compensation, i central government's liability na para u tunok.*
- *Este na probension ha aidenfika i hale' salåppe' ni u machule' yan i tano' pupbliku siha ni para u ma'usa para åpas i private lands ni manmachule' para uson pupbliku.*
- *Ha na'siguru na ha kontinuha i stream of money para i Marianas Public Land Trust ni ha mimidi i kantidå ni siña ma'usa para u satisfecho i land claims para i bente pot siento gi revenue.*

Kinentra:

- *Maseha i probension ha åturisa muna'pusipbli i ma'usan i suetdo ginen i tano' pupbliku siha, ti ha nisisita i guaha na suetdo para u usa pat ni håfa na land compensation claim gi minagåhet na para u ma'apåsi.*
- *Dinimånda i DPL na para u usa i 20% gi iyo-ña na revenue para i land compensation ni ha ribåha i resources ni siña ma'usa para i operasion siha.*
- *Este i mapropone na amendasion para u inafekta i kantidå na salåppe' ni mapo'lu gi Marianas Land Trust kada såkkan.*
- *I mapropone na amendasion ti minidi i land compensation claims kontra i mayå'hon-ña ginen i DPL yan ti i central government.*

House Legislative Initiative 16-18 ekke pomwoli ebwe siweli Article XI, Talil 5(g) mellól CNMI Allégh Lapalap igha ebwe ngálleey bwángil Department of Public Lands (Bwulasiyool Faluweer Toulap) ebwe yáali twenty percent salapial ebwe abwóssuw me asefáali salaapial falúw kka rekke tingór; me bwal akkáaw pomwol. Sángi Sów Ffééról Allégh nge ekke apasa bwe CNMI government e bwughi faluweer aramas bwelle wiiseer toulap (public purposes) sibwe ira yaal me esáál kke asefáali ngáliir aramas salaapial falúweer iye ebwe yoor ebwughúw schóóy tingór. Sów Ffééról Allégh (Legislature) ebwal sóbweey yaal kke apasa bwe Bwulasiyool Faluweer Toulap (Department of Public Lands) e ghal bwughi salaapial falúweer toulap (Public Land) ikka e ghal akkilaalo, lisensia me akkáaw angaangal. Iwe bwelle igha yaal angaang, DPL ebwe yáayá twenty percent salaapial reel ebwe abwós me asefáali salaapial falúweer aramas ikka rekke tingór igha e alléghewow.

GHATCHÚL:

- *Pomwol lliwel yeel ebwe alughulugh (ensure) bwe salaapial falÚw kka falúweer aramas ikka resáál abwósuur nge rebwe asefáali ngáliir.*
- *Ngáre re mweiti ngáli DPL ebwe yaali 20% salaapial igha ebwe abwós me abwóssuw salaapial falúw, bwángil central government essóbw lap.*
- *Aweewe yeel ebwe ghut salaapial iye eghil ngáli falúweer toulap (public lands) bwe ebwe abwóssuw private lands kka toulap rekke yáayá..*
- *Ebwe alughulugh bwe ebwe sóbwósóbw toolongol salaapi llól Marianas Public Land ngáre re afelli llapal abwóssul faluweer toulap ye rekke tingór sángi twenty percent.*

NNGÓWAL:

- *Bwelle igha bwángil aweewe yeel ebwe yáali salaapial public lands, nge ese pirisisu rebwe yáali salaapial me alongal land compensation (abwóssul faluw) ebwe abwós.*
- *Ngáre re mweiti ngáli PDL ebwe yáali 20% salaapial reel abwóssul falúw, e fischelitiw resources (alillis) ye emmwel rebwe yáali ngáli an gaang. (operation).*
- *Pomwol ssiwel yeel ebwe aweiresi llapal salaapi ye e atotoolong llól Marianas Public Land Trust alongal ráágh*
- *Pomwol ssiwel nge essóbw aighúgh salaapial falúw kka rekke tingór iye toowow mereel DPL me ese toolong central government.*

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House Legislative Initiative 17-1

This legislative initiative amends Article X of the CNMI Constitution by adding a new section. The new provision authorizes the Commonwealth to issue pension obligation bonds (POBs). A POB is defined as a taxable bond issued by a state or local government that sponsors a pension plan to:

(1) Pay a portion or all of a pension plan's Unfunded Actuarial Accrued liability (UAAL) which is the present value shortfall between the future benefit owed to employees and the resources available to pay such benefits when due; and/or
(2) Pay a plan's normal contributions (present value of benefits earned by current employees).

Unlike regular bonds where the proceeds can be used by the state for a variety of reasons, a POB can only be used for the purpose intended. Here, the legislature has found that as a result of the judgment against the government owed to the Retirement Fund, "... it is necessary and proper to resolve the [on-going litigation] by authorizing the issuance of pension obligation bonds to generate revenues immediately which the Commonwealth can repay over time, as the bonds mature, thus lessening the immediate fiscal impact on the Commonwealth."

This proposed amendment allows the CNMI Government to issue a POB to aid in funding the retirement fund. To issue a POB, the initiative provides that the CNMI Government must first determine how much of the UAAL the government is looking to reduce. The legislature limits the amount of the POB by stating it is not to exceed "the Commonwealth's actuarially determined unfunded accrued liability to the Retirement Fund." Accordingly, this initiative seeks to amend the Constitution to allow the CNMI to incur a debt by issuing a POB to exceed 10% of the aggregate assessed valuation of the real property in the CNMI and to authorize the debt to be incurred for investment purposes. Next, the CNMI Government must hire an investment bank (or a group of investment banks) who will try to sell the bond to investors and once sold those bond proceeds will be provided to the Retirement Fund. The Retirement Fund will then invest the proceeds along with their current invested assets with the goal of earning a return on investments that is greater than the repayment interest rate or the borrowing cost. The CNMI Government will then be responsible for making payments on the bond.

Este na legislative initiative ha amenda i Attikulu X gi Konstitusion CNMI ni manå'yi nuebu na seksiona. I nuebu na probension ha åturisa i Commonwealth para u laknos i pension obligation bonds (POBs). I POB ha defina komu taxable bond ni malaknos ginen i state pat local government ni ini-sponsor siha ni pension plan para:

(1) Apåsi palu pat todu i pension plan's Unfunded Actuarial Accrued liabity (UAAL) ni prinisenta i bålen i shortfall gi entalo' i mamamaila' na benefisio ni madibi i emple'ao siha yan i resources ni guaha ni para u ma'apåsi i benefisio siha ni manmadibi; yan/pat
(2) I naturåt na plånon åpas kontribusion siha (gi prisente na presio gi benefisio siha ni magånna ginen i prisente na emple'ao siha).

Achuk i regulåt na bonds nai gaige i proceeds siña manma'usa ginen i state para todu klåsen rason siha, i POB siña manma'usa para i ma'intensiona na manera. Guini, i leyes latura ha sodda' na komu i resutta ginen i huisio kontra i gobietnamento madibi guatu i Fondon Ritiru, ". . . ya nisisårio yan propiu na para u masåtba i [on-going litigation] ginen i ma'åturirisa i issuance of pension obligation bonds para u fanrikohi ensigidas salåppe' siha ni i Commonwealth siña ha ta'lon umapåsi chaddek, komu i bonds mature, siempre i menus i immediate fiscal impact gi Commonwealth."

Este i mapropone na amendasion ha sedi i Gobietnamenton CNMI na para u laknos i POB para u inayuda gi fumondo i fondon ritiru. Para u laknos i POB, i initiative ha pribeniyi na i Gobietnamenton CNMI debi na finene'na u detitmina kuånto gi i UAAL i gobietnamento ha a'atan para u ribåha. I leyeslatura ha midi i kantidå gi POB ni ha såsangan na ti u inipos i "Commonwealth actuarially ni ha detitmina i unfunded accrued liability para i Fondon Ritiru." Sigun, este na initiative ha aligao para u amenda i Konstitusion ni para u sedi i CNMI para u incur i dibi ni para u laknos i POB ni para u inipos dies (10) pot siento gi aggregated assessed valuation gi i real property gi halom i CNMI yan para u åturisa i dibi na para u incurred para i hinangain investment siha. Otro, i Gobietnamenton CNMI debi na u fangonne' investment bank (pat gurupon investment banks) anai siña machagi mambende bond para i investors yan komu mabende ayo todu na bond proceeds siempre prinibeniyi guatu gi Fondon Ritiru. I Fondon Ritiru para u invest despues i proceeds yan i iyon-ñiha current invested assets yan i diniseha gi ginana gi despues i investment siha ni takkilo'ña ki ni i repayment interest rate pat i gåston inayao. I Gobietnamenton CNMI para u responsåpble na mafa'titinas i apas gi i bond.

Legislative initiative yeel ebwe siweli Article X mellól CNMI Allégh Lapalap ngáre re aschuulong talil ye e ffé. Aweewe ye e ffé nge e ngálleey bwángil Commonwealth ebwe isisiwow pension obligation bonds (POBs). Faal POB nge taxable bond iye e toowow mereel state me local government iye e amwaschú plóónol salaapi igha ebwe:

(1) Abwóssuw eghús me ngáre alongal plóónol Unfunded Actuarial Accrued liaility (UAAL) llapal ye ese ghówuta ighila leefilal schóóy angaang igha resáál kke abwóssuur me alillis ye ebwe abwóssuur benefits ngáre aa atol; me ngáre
(2) Abwóssuw schéschéél plóónol salaapi ((llapal benefisio ye eyoor mereel schóóy angaang kka ighila).

Ese weewee me regular bond igha essogh tappal aweewe ye ebwe mwir sángi, POB schagh mille emmwel ebwe yááyá reel meeta re mángi fischi. Igheey, Sów Ffééról Allégh nge aa schuungi bwe mwirilóól aweewel government igha eyoor diibil mereel Retirement Fund, "...e pirisisu me efil rebwe ammwelaaló (on-going litigation) ngáre re kkeyil ngálleey pension obligation bonds bwe ebwe fféér salaapi bwelle Commonwealth ebwe abwós mweteló mmwal, ngáre schagh bond ghatcheló, ebwe mescheragheló weiresil fiscal impact mellól Commonwealth."

Pomwol lliwel nge e lighiti ngáli CNMI Government ebwe atoowowu POB igha ebwe alillisilong salaapial retirement fund. Reel isisiwowul POB, eyoorátá plóóno yeel bwe ipigh CNMI Government ebwe ghuleey fitoow UAAL, ye gobenno ekke amweri bwe ebwe fischelitiw. Sów Ffééról Allégh nge e fischeli llapal POB, igha ekke ira bwe essóbw luuló " Commonwealth actuarially determined unfunded accrued to the Retirement Fund." Schéschéél, plóóno yeel nge ekke amweri ngare ebwe siweli Allegh Lapalap (Constitution) igha ebwe lighiti ngáli CNMI ebwe amwela diibil ngáre e isisiwow POB iye ebwe aluuló 10% reel llapal méél falúw mellól CNMI me mweiti ngáli diibi ebwe ammwela kkapasal investment. Bwal eew, CNMI Government ebwe umwumw investment bank (me ngáre mwiischil investment banks) iye ebwe amééw ngáli bond ngáli investors me ngáre schagh aa améémé ngáli fááráághil bond ebwal ayoora ngáli Retirement Fund. Retirment Fund ebwe alailayú salaapial fengál me llapal salaapial ighila me kkapasal (goal) igha ekke bweibwogh interest mereel repayment sángi mwolofit (borrowing cost). Ebwe toowow nge CNMI Government ebwele abwóssuw bond.

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NMC appoints a new library director

The Northern Marianas College has appointed Matthew Pastula as the new director for Library Programs and Services. He will manage the Olympio T. Borja Memorial Library, CNMI Archives and Curriculum Resource Center, ensuring their information and services are readily available to students, faculty, staff, and community members.

"We are delighted to have Matthew as part of the NMC team," said NMC interim president Lorraine Cabrera. "His extensive experience with various information and library technologies will be beneficial to the management and improvement of library services."

Pastula has had a decade of work experience in higher education and a strong background in information technology.

Prior to joining the NMC team, Pastula worked as a College Liaison Librarian at a major university in Wellington, New Zealand. At the university, he provided information services for students and faculty, managed the information desk staff, created online learning materials, and taught information literacy skills.

During his time in Wellington, Pastula also worked as an analyst for the New Zealand government. Prior to moving overseas, he worked at the Oakland Community College in Michigan, one of the largest community colleges in the United States.

"I'm thankful for the opportunity to work as director of the library at the Northern Marianas College," said Pastula. "I look forward to working in a college environment again since that is where I began my postsecondary education."

Pastula went on to earn his master's degree at Wayne State University in Detroit, and completed his postgraduate studies at Victoria University in Wellington. ***(NMC)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Expiration of appliance rebate vouchers extended

The CNMI Energy Division Office would like to inform all recipients and retailers of the CNMI State Energy Efficient Appliance Rebate Program that due to the continuing financial hardships being faced by rebate voucher recipients, the CNMI Energy Division will extend the expiration periods of all rebate vouchers that have not been redeemed.

The new expiration date on all rebate vouchers will now be Jan. 31, 2011, regardless of issued date. ***(PR)***

Spooktacular show this weekend

Friends of the Arts' first show, a musical revue from some spooky shows, will be this coming weekend. It is titled *The Darker Side of Broadway*, a *spooktacular* show, this Oct. 28, 29 and 30 at the American Memorial Park inside theater, starting at 7pm each night. Contact Frank Gibson at flgibson@yahoo.com for more information about FOA membership and season tickets. ***(PR)***

Auditions open for Christmas production

Friends of the Arts announces upcoming auditions for "Farndale Avenue Housing Estate Townswomen's Guild Dramatic Society Production of A Christmas Carol." Auditions are open to the general public, and will be held Oct. 30 and 31, from 2pm to 4pm at Hal Easton's classroom at Marianas High School: D-102. All ages and genders welcome to audition. For more information, contact Frank Gibson at flgibson@yahoo.com. ***(PR)***

SSHS PTA meeting today

Saipan Southern High School will have a PTA meeting today, Oct. 27, 2010, at 6pm to 7pm in the Manta Café. ***(PR)***

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Happy, happy birthday greetings going out to Ji Hye Choi, who is celebrating her birthday today, Oct. 27! We hope you have a great one! Much love coming out from your entire SHCP 2010 family!

Happy birthday Renaysha Liep Pangelinan, who is celebrating her special day today, Oct. 27 2010! Enjoy your special day and may you have many more to come! We love you! Greetings come from Randall Pangelinan, friends and family.

Belated happy birthday greetings go out to Kim White, who celebrated her birthday on Oct. 26! We hope you had a great one! Much love coming out from Sean, Peter John, Aubrey Paige, your family, friends, and your SVS Canary crew!

Belated happy birthday greetings go out to Masako Bargamotov, PIC's Guest Relations Manager, whose birthday was on Oct. 23. Greetings come from her SEA family.

Birthday greetings going out to Collin Duenas, who is celebrating his birthday today, Oct. 27, 2010. May you have a wonderful celebration on your birthday, with wishes for many more to come. Blessings coming from your family!

On November 2, you will have four choices for Delegate.

Out of these choices,
I believe Joe Camacho represents the best choice.

Joe was a bipartisan legislator.
He is a practicing attorney.
He can work well with local stakeholders: with our local business community, the Legislature, the administration, and the people of the CNMI.

I urge all of my friends and families to please vote for Joe Camacho on November 2nd.

I'm Joseph Kevin Pangelinan Villagomez, and I'm for Joe.
Please join me in supporting Joe Camacho for Delegate.

PLEASE VOTE #2 ON THE BALLOT

CAMACHO
JOSEPH NORITA
for U.S. DELEGATE
Covenant
Paid for by the Committee-to-Elect Camacho for Congress

TODAY

TINIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

US MILITARY CONTRACTING
Small Business Outreach Forum
OCTOBER 27th, 2010 - 8:00am-4:30pm
Tinian Dynasty Hotel
Hosted by the Tinian Chamber of Commerce

FEATURED SPEAKERS

Honorable Mayor Ray Dela Cruz
Municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan

Mr. John Jackson
Director of the Joint Guam Program Office

Mr. Richard Solander
Project Manager
Office of Economic Adjustment
Office of the Secretary of Defense

Mrs. Vera Topasna
Program Manager
US Department of Defense Procurement Technical Assistance Center

Mr. Albert Sampson
Small Business Advisor
NAVFAC Marianas

RADM Paul J. Bushong
US Defense Representative for Micronesia

CAPT Peter S. Lynch
Commanding Officer of NAVFAC Marianas

Mr. Frank Crisostomo-Kaaihue
Director
Guam Veterans Business Outreach Center

Mr. Casey Jeszenka
Network Director
Pacific Islands Small Business Development Center

Mr. Christopher Dunsmore
Defense Logistics Agency (DLA)–Pacific Guam

The **Tinian Chamber of Commerce US Military Contracting Small Business Outreach Forum** will be held on **October 27th, 2010** and begins at **8AM (registration) 9AM(first speaker) and ends at 4:30PM** the same day. Participants can therefore attend the meeting during the day on Tinian and be able to return back to Guam or Saipan the same day if necessary. Registration is $25 with no lunch or $45 with lunch. All funds collected go to the Tinian Chamber of Commerce in order to cover expenses of hosting the event. To register, please visit
www.TinianChamber.com

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September visitor arrivals down 6 percent

» 'Death valley' low travel season begins

September 2010 visitor arrivals to the Northern Mariana Islands were down 6 percent compared to September 2009, marking the first drop in arrivals in five months and the beginning of the annual "death valley" low travel demand season. According to the Marianas Visitors Authority, arrivals to the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota registered 29,917 visitors last month compared to 31,755 in September 2009.

Arrivals from Japan dropped 19 percent to 16,992 visitors, largely due to the suspension of flights from Osaka due to low season travel demand. Flights from Nagoya were suspended on Oct. 1, and flights from both cities are not expected to resume until mid-December for the holiday season. The number of air seats from Narita also decreased in September, as Continental Airlines had operated double daily charter flights in September last year. Finally, the combination of consecutive holidays during the Silver Week holiday in September last year resulted in a record number of overseas travelers from Japan, while this year, the Silver Week holiday sequence was not as favorable for overseas travel; total outbound from Japan fell as a result.

Japanese visitors comprise over half of all visitor arrivals to the Northern Marianas. .

"Regular flights from source cities of Osaka and Nagoya in our primary market of Japan are key to the health of the industry," said MVA managing director Perry Tenorio, "and we need to do whatever is possible to ensure that these those flights operate year-round rather than seeing them suspended during the low season."

Arrivals from the primary market of Korea posted an impressive 85-percent rise in September 2010 over September last year, registering 7,958 visitors. Due to high travel demand during the Korean Thanksgiving holidays called "Chuseok," air seats from Korea saw an increase of 17 percent, with two 177-seat extra flights on Sept. 18 and 21 and extremely high booking levels throughout the month. Korean arrivals have been consistently higher since December 2009.

The secondary market of China saw 2,377 arrivals in September, a 21-percent decrease over the same month last year. Overall, China has seen a 46-percent increase in arrivals this fiscal year. The number of air seats from China also decreased in September as charter flights from Guangzhou had operated in September 2009.

Meanwhile, arrivals from other markets were down, including a 17-percent decrease from Russia to 205 visitors. ***(MVA)***

Top Russian puppets to entertain Saipan for charity

"Gogoriki" is not a name of an exotic tropical bird. It's is the English name of the most popular Russian cartoon series and a puppet show called "Smeshariki" ("Funny little balls"). The cute stylized rounded animals became a must-watch for Russian kids in the past few years.

This November, five of the most favorite Smeshariki characters will travel to Saipan to perform a puppet show. They will be personalized by three professional actors from Saint Petersburg, Russia. Gogoriki was invited to Saipan by Pacific Islands Club. The puppet performance at PIC will be part of the resort's entertainment program for its Russian guests.

At the end of October and the beginning of November, Russian schools will be on its short autumn break and PIC expects many Russian families to escape from the cooler weather to sunny, tropical Saipan.

PIC has scheduled four days for the Gogoriki program, from Nov. 2 to 5. In the mornings, the performers will dress as their cartoon characters and lead activities for in-house children. In the evenings at the hotel's theater Charley's, there will also be two puppet shows in Russian and two in English. PIC is inviting the community's families to enjoy the two English puppet shows on Nov.3 and Nov. 5 at 6pm. The two shows will be different so local kids can enjoy both performances and have fun with the puppets.

Gogoriki's trip to Saipan is not just PIC's marketing effort to promote itself to customers in Russia during the long off-season before New Year's. The resort plans to sell tickets for each cartoon performance in order to collect funds for local and Russian charities.

As part of the hotel's giving program "Sharing Seeds," PIC supports an orphanage in a hospital in Vladivostok where they house over 100 newborn infants and toddlers. Previously, the resort installed two new windows, built a partition between the pediatric section and the hospital lobby and purchased diapers for the babies. The money collected from tickets sold to Russian guests will fund the next purchase for the orphans to cover their immediate needs. Proceeds from tickets sold to Saipan residents will fund a local project.

As presented by 4KidsTV, which airs the Russian cartoon in its program for the U.S., Gogoriki is a high-energy comedy adventure starring eight decidedly distinct personalities. They are each a different color and possess different interests and temperaments. They are of different generations and come from different places. Despite all of their differences, Gogoriki always come together to laugh, learn about life and solve seemingly insurmountable problems in ways that are creative, unexpected and amazingly fun. Their distinctive personalities combine to ensure that each hysterical situation is filled with crazy antics, madcap mishaps and non-stop laughs.

These unique characters do have one thing in common: they all share a core set of positive values and ideals: tolerance, respect for each other and the environment, friendship, loyalty, compassion, and peace. That makes the Gogoriki games, activities and shows one without violence or cruelty.

PIC is pleased to host Gogoriki to Saipan for its first ever performance in Micronesia! For more information, call PIC at 237-5198. ***(PIC)***

ON THE NET

Free online Gogoriki game:

- http://www.4kids.tv/swf/content/games/doeoriki.swf?1279044217
- http://www.tmnt.tv/show/gogoriki/games

This November, five of the most favorite Smeshariki characters will travel to Saipan to perform a puppet show.

I know Joe Camacho.

Joe was my instructor at NMC.

Joe is hard working.
He can work with people.
He is very approachable.
He listens.

I believe in Joe. I trust him.
I know he can do the job.

Please join me and my family in voting for Joe Camacho.

I'm Pamela C. Sablan, and I support Joe Camacho.
Let's get together and vote for Joe.

PLEASE VOTE #2 ON THE BALLOT

CAMACHO
JOSEPH NORITA
for U.S. DELEGATE
Covenant
Paid for by the Committee-to-Elect Camacho for Congress

Two educators donate books to Koblerville Youth Center

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Staff, volunteers, and children of the Koblerville Youth Center pose with the complete set of Compton's Encyclopedia donated by Julian and Alice Taman last Thursday.

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Long-time educators Alice and Julian Taman recently donated a complete set of Compton's Encyclopedia to the Koblerville Youth Center.

Koblerville Neighborhood Watch Task Force chair Rose Ada-Hocog said this was the first time the Tamans made a donation to the youth center.

Alice Taman is currently a teacher at the Koblerville Elementary School. They made the donation last Thursday.

Ada-Hocog told *Saipan Tribune* that the 26-piece encyclopedia set will be made available to village children through the youth center's resource room.

She said the encyclopedia set is a big help for all young members of the village who spend their time at the youth center.

"In addition to the computers [at the resource room], the children can also use these books to help them with their school work and to keep their young minds entertained, which will in turn keep them from getting in trouble," she said.

Ada-Hocog expressed appreciation to the Tamans, saying their donation "will open the doors of the world even wider for the children."

"As educators, they understand that education is key in a child's life, whether it be in a classroom or at home, and in this case, in the Youth Center," said Ada-Hocog.

Business

$100 million committed to help improve Guam port

WASHINGTON, D.C.—U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates and Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack last week announced a commitment of $100 million in funding to help make improvements to the Port Authority of Guam in the Western Pacific, a key military and shipping facility.

"Modernization to the Port of Guam is not only critical for the military relocation, but also to support the long-term needs of the people of Guam," said Gates. "The Department of Defense is committed to executing the realignment in a manner which can benefit the Guam community and this funding contribution is one step in our efforts to do so."

"USDA is proud to contribute to this important joint undertaking with the U.S. Department of Defense," Vilsack said. "Guam is vital to America's security, and a modern port facility will improve our ability to rapidly deploy supplies and equipment to the area."

Located near Piti, Guam, the Port Authority of Guam, also known as the Jose D. Leon Guerrero Commercial Port, handles more than 90 percent of the goods consumed by residents of Guam and the Western Pacific islands. A planned military buildup of 8,000 Marines and their dependents has led to a re-examination of the existing infrastructure. Several key facilities are being updated and expanded in preparation for the increased activity, traffic and construction that will follow. Since the seaport is the main entry point for material goods, its increased capacity is essential for subsequent expansions and new construction. Funding from USDA and the Department of Defense is expected to help save or create more than 800 jobs. The Maritime Administration will help administer USDA's funding for this project. DOD funding is also being administered by MARAD.

USDA and the Department of Defense are working together on efforts that include increasing the production of fuel from renewable energy sources. Earlier this year the Department of the Navy and USDA signed a memorandum of understanding to encourage the development of advanced biofuels and other renewable energy systems. Efforts are underway to implement the MOU in Hawaii with the intention of expanding it to other areas. ***(USDA)***

Fed throws its weight into foreclosure probe

WASHINGTON (AP)—Raising pressure on banks, the Federal Reserve is wading into the investigation of whether mortgage lenders cut corners and used flawed documents to foreclose on homes.

Major banks are already under investigation by state officials with subpoena power, who could force them to detail how they handled hundreds of thousands of foreclosure cases.

Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke added weight to those efforts Monday by saying the central bank would look "intensively" at policies and procedures that might have allowed banks to seize homes improperly.

"We take violation of proper procedures very seriously," Bernanke said in remarks to a housing-finance conference in Arlington, Va.

The Fed has the power to impose penalties on some of the nation's largest banks. Still, most legal experts expect an investigation by attorneys general in all 50 states to have a swifter and more lasting impact.

Big mortgage lenders are looking into whether employees signed foreclosure documents without reading them. Some banks have halted tens of thousands of foreclosures since similar practices became public.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Gov't pushing more fuel efficiency for trucks

WASHINGTON (AP)—Future generations of semi-trucks, school buses and large pickups will need to cut fuel consumption and emissions by 10 to 20 percent under first-ever fuel efficiency rules for trucks announced Monday by the Obama administration. For the first time, the Environmental Protection Agency and the Transportation Department released proposed fuel economy requirements and reductions in tailpipe emissions for medium- and heavy-duty trucks, beginning with those sold in the 2014 model year and into the 2018 model year. The proposal, which is expected to be finalized next summer, seeks a 20 percent reduction in carbon dioxide emissions and fuel consumption from big rig combination tractors by 2018. Large tractor-trailers tend to be driven up to 150,000 miles a year, making them prime candidates for improved fuel efficiency.

Computer trouble disrupts AP coverage for 5 hours

NEW YORK (AP)—The Associated Press suffered a five-hour computer outage Monday that prevented much of its news coverage from being delivered to newspapers and some other media outlets. The problems started at about 3 p.m. EDT as the news cooperative tried to apply a security patch recommended by Microsoft Corp. The AP wanted the added protection before next week's national and state elections. To perform the security upgrade, AP switched from its main system to back-up computers and they failed, said Lorraine Cichowski, the AP's chief information officer. Engineers tried to revert to the main system only to run into trouble there, too. The breakdown wasn't completely fixed until about 8 p.m. EDT.

AIG chief diagnosed with cancer

NEW YORK (AP)—American International Group Inc. said Monday that its president and chief executive officer, Robert Benmosche, has been diagnosed with cancer. The insurer said Benmosche is undergoing aggressive chemotherapy. He said in a statement his long-term prognosis is good and he continues to work his normal schedule. He said he will know more about the course of his treatment in coming weeks as his doctors analyze the results of his chemotherapy. The company announced Benmosche's diagnosis after the market closed Monday.

Postmaster general to retire in December

WASHINGTON (AP)—John E. Potter, one of the nation's longest serving postmasters general, announced Monday that he will retire in December. Patrick R. Donahoe, currently deputy postmaster general, was named to succeed him by the post office's board of governors. A New York City native, Potter has served in the Postal Service for 32 years and took over the top job at the agency on June 1, 2001. Potter has served during a time that has seen the Postal Service struggle to deal with rising costs and a declining mail volume as people switch over to the Internet. The post office continues to face losses despite cuts in its spending and staff. It does not receive tax dollars for operations.

CNMI Voting Accessibility Survey

Help us make your voting experience an accessible one!

The Commonwealth Election Commission, together with the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities, and the Northern Marianas College University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities, is conducting a survey on voter accessibility. We are asking for everyone's feedback on the voting process so that we can make improvements.

Why are we conducting this survey?

Through gathering your input, we are working together to improve your voting experience.

CNMI Voting Accessibility Survey 2010
Please Mark your answers accordingly inside the box provided.
1)Have you observed any voters with disabilities encountering difficulties with voting or with accessing the polling place?
Yes
No
Comments:
2) If you are a person with a disability, experience any problems while voting?
SAMPLE

Please give your completed survey to a poll worker at the voting site.

CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities

UCEDD

Nation

Obama assails GOP on clouded final campaign push

WOONSOCKET, R.I. (AP)—President Barack Obama attacked Republicans with gusto Monday as he plunged into a final week of midterm election campaigning, but his party's prognosis remained darkened by the feeble economy and his itinerary was designed largely to minimize losses

Nor was his greeting totally friendly in a state Obama has pointedly declined to endorse his party's candidate for governor. Obama can "take his endorsement and shove it," declared Democrat Frank Caprio, battling Republican-turned-independent Lincoln Chafee in a Rhode Island gubernatorial race rated tight in the polls. Chafee endorsed Obama during the 2008 campaign for the White House.

In a little more than five hours in the state, Obama was booked for a factory tour and for a pair of fundraisers that party officials said would bring in $500,000.

He said Republicans had driven the economy into a ditch and then stood by and criticized while Democrats pulled it out. Now that progress has been made, he said, "we can't have special interests sitting shotgun. We gotta have middle class families up in front. We don't mind the Republicans joining us. They can come for the ride, but they gotta sit in back."

Democrats relied on more than the president's time to boost their chances in the final days of the campaign. There was the matter of federal funds, too, in the form of an estimated $2.5 billion in grants announced during the day to provide high-speed rail service in California, between Chicago and Iowa, and elsewhere.

Administration officials left it to Democratic lawmakers to make the announcements, and they did, stressing the job-creating potential of the expansions. Some Republicans expressed objections to the funding in a time of record deficits.

Eight days before the election, the principal uncertainty concerned the size and scope of anticipated Democratic losses in the House, the Senate, governor's races and state legislatures.

An Associated Press-GfK Poll showed that perhaps one-third of all voters have yet to firmly settle on their choices. But that wasn't encouraging for the Democrats, either. About 45 percent of them prefer the Republican candidate for the House, and 38 percent like the Democrat.

The president arrived as official figures showed more than 6.5 million ballots already have been cast in the 25 states where early voting is permitted or where absentees have been counted, underscoring the importance of get-out-the-vote programs that now begin long before Election Day.

Police: Pa. mom killed her 4 newborns, kept bones

READING, Pa. (AP)—A woman who secretly conceived several children through an extramarital affair killed at least four of her newborns, then kept their remains in coolers or encased in concrete in her closet until family members found them this year, authorities said Monday.

Michele Kalina, 44, of Reading, hid at least six pregnancies from her husband and longtime boyfriend, according to officials in Berks County, where a homicide charge was filed against the home-health aide.

DNA tests show the bones found in a locked closet came from five babies, at least four of whom were born alive, authorities said. The boyfriend fathered three and possibly four of the victims. Tests on the fifth baby were inconclusive.

Dogs trained to search for human remains have scoured Kalina's current and former homes in the Reading area.

"I'm very confident we have all the babies," District Attorney John T. Adams said at an afternoon news conference.

Kalina has been in custody since August on abuse-of-corpse charges and is being held without bail after she was arraigned Monday on one count of criminal homicide, aggravated assault and related charges. Additional counts may be filed before trial, Adams said.

A preliminary hearing is scheduled for Thursday. Public defender Holly Feeney declined to comment Monday.

GONE LOCO AP

Four Loko, an alcoholic energy drink is on display during a news conference at Central Washington University in Ellensburg, Wash. on Monday, Oct. 25, 2010. Central Washington University has determined that the high-alcohol energy drink under scrutiny nationwide is what sickened students at an off-campus party this month, prompting state Attorney General Rob McKenna to call for a ban on the beverage. Nine students were hospitalized after the Oct. 8 party in Roslyn, where about 50 people had been drinking.

ACROSS THE NATION

Coroner: Great white shark likely killed Calif, man

SANTA BARBARA, Calif. (AP)—The Santa Barbara County coroner says it's likely a great white shark was responsible for killing a body boarder last week at a Central California beach. The coroner's office made the announcement Monday after conferring with shark expert Ralph Collier, president of the Shark Research Committee and author of "Shark Attacks of the 20th Century." Collier says the shark that killed 19-year-old Lucas Ransom was 17 to 18 feet long and weighed possibly 4,000 pounds. Collier based his finding on witness accounts, facts gathered during the investigation, and measuring the distance between teeth marks on the board. Surf Beach, where Ransom was killed, reopened Monday morning.

Convicted murderer, 2 others, escape Mo. jail

PATTONSBURG, Mo. (AP)—Three inmates, including a convicted murderer, escaped from a northwest Missouri jail by crawling under a fence, leading authorities to lock down the surrounding community's school and to go door-to-door warning residents. The inmates remained at large Monday after making their break Sunday night from the Daviess/DeKalb County jail in Pattonsburg wearing orange prison jumpsuits and no shoes, authorities said. Daviess County Sheriff Ben Becerra said Monday afternoon that they were thought to have split up and left the area. In Pattonsburg, a city of 260 residents 75 miles north of Kansas City, the lone school was locked down Monday and members of the fire department were sent door-to-door to tell residents to be vigilant.

3 boys face charges in Calif. school bus crash

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Authorities are considering charges for three boys suspected of being in a car that ran a red light, struck and killed a pedestrian and broadsided a school bus. California Highway Patrol spokesman Miguel Luevano said Monday that the boys attempted to flee on foot. He says they're hospitalized with injuries suffered in the crash. Luevano says the driver could face felony hit-and-run and manslaughter charges. The other boys could face conspiracy charges for fleeing the scene. Bystanders stopped the boys as they tried to get away after the crash and held them until police arrived. Besides the pedestrian death, the bus driver was seriously hurt and 18 students were hospitalized with non life-threatening injuries.

Hawaii man charged in international terrorism case

HONOLULU (AP)—A Hawaii man accused of traveling to Pakistan in a failed effort to join the Taliban or similar group has been arrested. Abdel Hameed Shehadeh, 21, was charged with making false statements in a matter involving international terrorism, according to a criminal complaint unsealed Monday in the Eastern District of New York. If convicted, Shehadeh would face a maximum sentence of eight years imprisonment. A U.S. Department of Justice news release said Shehadeh was arrested Friday in Honolulu, and removal proceedings were scheduled to begin Monday.

COMMONWEALTH ZONING BOARD

Notice of Zoning Board Meeting

The regular monthly meeting of the Zoning Board will be held on Tuesday, November 09, 2010 at 6:00 PM, Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten DanDan Commercial Bldg., Saipan

A. Preliminary Matters
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of Minutes
5. Communications
6. Public Comments

B. Reports
1. Chairperson
2. Secretary
3. Treasurer
4. Administrator
5. Committees
6. Legal Counsel

C. Public Hearing
1. A request for a Variance to allow the development of two three-story buildings on lot 001 B 72 in the Village of San Roque. The property owner is requesting variances to the side and rear yard setbacks and to the number of required parking spaces. This property is located behind the San Roque Elementary School. This is within proximity of the intersection of San Roque Drive and Mamate Loop. The site is zoned as "Rural". Requested by Du Young Jang.
2. A request for a Conditional Use Permit to allow the construction of institutionalized housing and the expansion of an existing warehouse. This property is described as Lot 011 D 25 in the Village of Garapan. This is at the intersection of Mooty Street with Natdo and Chichirica Avenues. The site is zoned as "Mixed Commercial". Requested by Manuel J. Alvarez for Rigel Corporation.

D. Old Business.
1. Update on Zoning Office Operations *(Permit Processing, Enforcement, Junk Car Program).*

E. New Business.
1. Update on Zoning Law/ Text Amendments (comments)

F. Executive (Closed) Session
G. Miscellaneous: Other Matters, Announcements, Next Meeting, Adjourn.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the Board meeting, or if you require assistance, please contact Douglas Wyatt, Zoning Administrator, at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & 10 CMC 3511, et seq.). */s/ Herminia M. Fusco, Chairperson, Zoning Board*

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING for Dou Young Jang

The public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this Variance Application. Mr. Du Young Jang is requesting to construct two three-story buildings on lot 001 B 72 in the Village of San Roque. The property owner is requesting variances to the side and rear yard setbacks and to the number of required parking spaces. This property is located behind the San Roque Elementary School. This is within proximity of the intersection of San Roque Drive and Mamate Loop. The site is zoned as "Rural".

Date: November 9, 2010 (Tuesday)
Time: 6:00 pm
Place: Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan.

Above application may be viewed at the Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan. Comments on the projects may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may also be submitted in writing to the Zoning Office no later than 4:30 pm, November 8, 2010. Written comments may be submitted via e-mail to staff@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or delivered to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, DanDan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please contact Douglas Wyatt, at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & Division 3 of Title 10 CMC). */s/ Herminia M. Fusco, Board Chair*

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING for Rigel Corporation

The public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this Conditional Use application. Mr. Manuel J. Alvarez is requesting to construct institutionalized housing and expand an existing warehouse. This property is described as Lot 011 D 25 in the Village of Garapan. This is at the intersection of Mooty Street with Natdo and Chichirica Avenues. The site is zoned as "Mixed Commercial".

Date: November 9, 2010 (Tuesday)
Time: 6:00 pm
Place: Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan.

Above application may be viewed at the Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan. Comments on the projects may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may also be submitted in writing to the Zoning Office no later than 4:30 pm, November 8, 2010. Written comments may be submitted via e-mail to staff@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or delivered to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, DanDan, Saipan.

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Asia

Cyclone kills 27 in western Myanmar; 15 missing

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—A cyclone that struck Myanmar's western coast late last week killed at least 27 people, damaging thousands of buildings and displacing tens of thousands of people, state television reported Monday.

Cyclone Giri arrived from the Bay of Bengal on Friday evening with winds of up to 110 mph (180 kph), lashing several coastal areas of western Rakhine state that are home to poor families who live mostly in bamboo huts. It later moved into central Myanmar.

Monday's report was the first announcement from the government on casualties and damage from the category 4 storm. The military government tightly controls information and also delayed reporting on—and asking for help with—the devastating Cyclone Nargis, which struck Myanmar in 2008, killing 130,000 people. The junta was widely criticized for what were called inadequate preparations and a slow response to the disaster.

This time, the government credited its preparation and warning system with saving lives, saying the casualty toll was low because it had managed to help 53,000 villagers evacuate before the storm.

In one coastal town in the country's center, Kyaukphyu, three camps set up by the Myanmar Red Cross and the Social Welfare Ministry were housing more than 5,000 people, said Andrew Kirkwood, the resident representative of aid group Save the Children.

A resident from Kyaukphyu, Chit Chit, who was contacted by phone, said that many homes had their roofs blown off and that many areas remained flooded. She said communications were cut over the weekend but had been restored.

Other nearby towns also saw most of the buildings flattened, Kirkwood said. In one, only seven homes out of several hundred remained standing.

The television report said that, in all, 4,000 houses, monasteries and government buildings were destroyed in Rakhine state. It said 27 people had been killed and 15 were missing.

7.7-magnitude quake hits off Indonesian island

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—A powerful earthquake hit off western Indonesia late Monday, briefly triggering a tsunami warning that sent thousands of panicked residents fleeing to high ground. There were no immediate reports of damage or injuries.

The 7.7-magnitude temblor struck at a depth of 13 miles (20 kilometers) off Sumatra island, said the U.S. Geological Survey.

At least five towns in the provinces of Bengkulu and West Sumatra were badly jolted, officials and witnesses said, as were the nearby Mentawai islands.

"Everyone was running out of their houses," said Sofyan Alawi, a resident in the city of Padang, adding that, with loudspeakers from mosques blaring out tsunami warnings, the roads leading to surrounding hills were quickly jammed with cars and motorcycles.

"We kept looking back to see if a wave was coming," said 28-year-old resident Ade Syahputra.

Areas closest to the epicenter of the 9:42 p.m. (10:42 a.m. EDT, 1442 GMT) quake were sparsely populated, and there were no immediate reports of damage or casualties, said Ade Edward, a disaster management agency official.

A 5.0-magnitude aftershock hit less than an hour after the original quake, and the region remained on alert for more jolts. A 6.1-magnitude aftershock hit at 2:37 a.m. (3:37 p.m. EDT, 1937 GMT), the U.S., Geological Survey reported.

Indonesia, the world's largest archipelago, is prone to earthquakes and volcanic activity due to its location on the so-called Pacific Ring of Fire.

Philippine police find three missing officers

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A town police chief and two other officers reported missing after a firefight with communist rebels in the northeastern Philippines were found safe Monday as a fresh battle with the insurgents broke out, officials said.

Police were preparing security for Monday's nationwide village elections when they clashed with around 40 guerrillas in northeastern Quezon province's San Andres township. It was feared that the three had been abducted after Sunday's battle and checkpoints were set up to search for them.

Senior Inspector Glenn Miralles and the two other policemen were found Monday morning near the hilly clash site, said Senior Superintendent Erickson Velasquez, the provincial police chief. The three lost contact with their colleagues and spent the night hiding on the side of a ridge.

He said three other policemen were wounded in the shootout, while at least one rebel was killed.

Fighting between the rebels and soldiers called in to help out the police continued through the night, Velasquez said. Another brief clash erupted midday Monday, but no one was hurt.

The Philippines' 41-year Marxist rebellion has been one of Asia's longest and bloodiest. More than 120,000 combatants and civilians have died in the rural-based rebellion.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Philippines militiaman kills 6 colleagues

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Army officials say a government militiaman went into a violent rage in the southern Philippines, killing six of his colleagues before he was fatally shot by pursuing troops. Maj. Gen Romeo Lustestica said Olegario Vocal Jr. opened fire with his M-14 rifle Sunday night for still-unknown reasons, killing five militiamen watching television in their detachment in Zamboanga Sibugay's Ipil township. He twice shot at his father, also a militiaman, but missed. Pursuing troops caught up with Vocal early Monday near the detachment. He shot it out with them, wounding another militiaman who later died in hospital. Vocal was killed in the shootout. Lustestica said it was not clear what prompted the attack, but said Vocal's family has a history of mental illness.

China's Three Gorges Dam reaches maximum capacity

BEIJING (AP)—The water level at China's Three Gorges Dam, the world's largest hydropower plant, reached its maximum capacity Tuesday, meaning that the decades-old project is generating its maximum amount of power for the first time. The reservoir's water level hit its maximum height of 175 meters (574 feet) at 9 a.m., according to its operator, the China Three Gorges Project Corp.—marking the symbolic culmination the project. The milestone— reached for the first time since it began operations— would "enable the project to fulfill its functions of flood control, power generation, navigation and water diversion to the full," company chairman Cao Guangjing was quoted as saying by the official Xinhua News Agency.

Taiwan rescuers search for missing China tourists

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—Rescuers rappelled down a cliff Monday trying to trace 21 Chinese tourists whose bus is believed to have tumbled off a narrow coastal road in Taiwan as a fierce typhoon lashed east Asia last week. Rescue officials told reporters they have found one body and assorted body parts in the area, but no definitive identifications had yet been made. Debris from the bus found along the rocky slope suggests the vehicle may have fallen off the road and into the sea more than 300 yards (meters) below. Rescuers in helicopters and ships searched for victims in the water.

World

Haiti official: Cholera outbreak is easing

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)—A cholera outbreak showed signs of easing Monday after killing more than 250 people in a sweep through rural Haiti, but experts warned that the earthquake-devastated country's first bout with the disease in decades is far from over.

Aid groups were joining the government in a race to purify water and warn people throughout the countryside and the capital, Port-au-Prince, where the Jan. 12 earthquake left more than a million survivors in squalid stick-and-tarp camps that are ripe for the waterborne disease.

"The worst part is over, but you can always have a new spike of cholera," said Health Ministry Director Gabriel Timothee. He said the situation is beginning to stabilize with only six new deaths reported since Sunday.

Haiti, which had not suffered a cholera outbreak in at least 50 years, is the latest developing country to be afflicted by the disease that sickens an estimated 3 million to 5 million people a year and kills 100,000.

It is common in regions such as the Indian subcontinent and sub-Saharan Africa—an outbreak in Nigeria this year killed at least 1,500 people, according to the United Nations—but it has been rare in industrialized nations for the past 100 years.

The disease, spread through feces-contaminated drinking water or food, leads to vomiting and watery diarrhea which, if not treated, can kill a person within hours. It is preventable with clean water and sanitation, but both can be hard to find in corners of the Western Hemisphere's poorest country.

Some of the 1.3 million people living in the capital's tent camps already fear the worst.

"I'm afraid because the water we're drinking here is not treated properly. Any time I drink the water it makes my stomach sick," said Joseph Sidsen Guerry, 20, who lives in the small Jeremie camp in central Port-au-Prince.

Drought has Amazon tributary at record low levels

A man walks past a boat sitting at the dry Rio Negro river in Manaus, Brazil, Sunday, Oct. 24, 2010.

AP

SAO PAULO (AP)—A severe drought has dropped water levels on a major Amazon tributary to their lowest point since officials began keeping records more than a century ago, the government reported Monday, cutting off dozens of communities who depend on the river for work and transportation. Floating homes along the Rio Negro now rest on muddy flats, and locals have had to modify boats to run in shallower waters in a region without roads. Some riverbanks have caved in, although no injuries have been reported. Enormous fields of trash and other debris have been revealed by the disappearing waters.

The drought is hurting fishing, cattle, agriculture and other businesses, prompting authorities to declare a state of emergency in nearly 40 municipalities. Amazonas state officials said more than 60,000 families have been affected by the drought.

The government has distributed about 600 tons of food, water and medicine, much of it by helicopter to isolated villages.

"It is a difficult situation for the community," resident Josimar Peixoto told Globo TV. "The families are struggling here."

The government's geological service said Monday that the Rio Negro was measured at a depth of 13.63 meters (44.72 feet) the previous day near the jungle city of Manaus, the lowest since a measuring system was implemented in 1902.

Manaus, in northern Brazil, is where the Rio Negro is at its deepest and where it merges with the Amazon River—meaning some places upstream are nearly completely dry.

The previous low was 13.64 meters (44.75 feet), recorded in 1963.

France: Strikes costing up to $557 million per day

PARIS (AP)—France's massive strikes opposing changes in the country's pension system showed some signs of weakening on Monday when Marseille garbage collectors and workers at three oil refineries voted to end their walkouts.

But the French finance minister announced that the strikes are costing the national economy up to euro400 million ($557 million) each day, as workers continued to block other oil refineries and some trash incinerators to protest the plan to raise the retirement age to 62.

Rotting piles of garbage—now at nearly 9,000 tons—are becoming a health hazard in Marseille, and trash collectors there explained their decision Monday to suspend their 2-week- long walkout as a response to the mounting hygiene problems in the Mediterranean city.

"There's not a wide health risk on the city, but we have noticed a worsening of hygiene and security problems," the head of the FO-Territoriaux union said at a news conference. "We're a responsible union."

Twelve striking refineries had been shut down for nearly two weeks, but their protest movement appeared to weaken Monday after workers at three refineries voted to end their walkout. The French oil refineries' body, UFIP, said all the country's oil depots had also been unblocked.

The oil workers' return to work is likely to ease the ongoing gasoline shortages, which on Monday still had about one in four gas stations in France shuttered.

President Nicolas Sarkozy has stood firm throughout the weeks long protest movement, insisting the reform is necessary to save the money-losing retirement system and ensure funds for future generations as life expectancy increases and the nation's debt soars.

Campus Life

More intellectually disabled youths go to college

WARRENSBURG, Mo. (AP)—Zach Neff is all high-fives as he walks through his college campus in western Missouri. The 27-year-old with Down syndrome hugs most everybody, repeatedly. He tells teachers he loves them.

"I told Zach we are putting him on a hug diet—one to say hello and one to say goodbye," said Joyce Downing, who helped start a new program at the University of Central Missouri that serves students with disabilities.

The hope is that polishing up on social skills, like cutting back on the hugs, living in residence halls and going to classes with non-disabled classmates will help students like Neff be more independent and get better jobs.

In years past, college life was largely off-limits for students with such disabilities, but that's no longer the case. Students with Down syndrome, autism and other conditions that can result in intellectual disabilities are leaving high school more academically prepared than ever and ready for the next step: college.

Eight years ago, disability advocates were able to find only four programs on university campuses that allowed students with intellectual disabilities to experience college life with extra help from mentors and tutors. As of last year, there were more than 250 spread across more than three dozen states and two Canadian provinces, said Debra Hart, head of Think College at the Institute for Community Inclusion at the University of Massachusetts Boston, which provides services to people with disabilities.

That growth is partly because of an increasing demand for higher education for these students and there are new federal funds for such programs.

The federal rules that took effect this fall allow students with intellectual disabilities to receive grants and work-study money. Because details on the rules are still being worked out, the earliest students could have the money is next year. Hart and others expect the funds to prompt the creation of even more programs.

"There is a whole generation of young people who have grown up under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, and the Americans with Disabilities Act, and to them it (college) is the logical next step," Hart said.

The college programs for these students vary. Generally the aim is to support the students as they take regular classes with non-disabled students. Professors sometimes are advised to modify the integrated classes by doing things like shifting away from a format that relies entirely on lectures and adding more projects in which students can work in groups.

One program in Idaho offers classes in drama, art and sign language. Students on other campuses can improve their computer skills or take child development classes.

Sometimes they're paired with non-disabled students and advocates say the educational coaches, mentors and tutors who help them often are studying to become special education teachers or social workers and learn from the experience too.

Disability advocates say only a small percentage of these students will receive degrees, but that the programs help them get better jobs.

Historically, adults with intellectual disabilities have been restricted primarily to jobs in fast food restaurants, cleaning or in so-called "sheltered workshops," where they work alongside other disabled people and often earn below-minimum wages, said Madeleine Will, vice president of the National Down Syndrome Society.

With additional training, Hart said participants can go on to do everything from being a librarian's assistants to data-entry work in an office.

Much remains to be learned about what type of program works best, but Hart said that will likely change.

Besides allowing for federal financial aid for these programs, Congress also has appropriated $10.56 million to develop 27 model projects to identify successful approaches.

The infusion of federal money has generated some criticism. Conservative commentator Charlotte Allen said it's a waste to spend federal tax dollars on the programs and insisted that calling them college dilutes the meaning of college.

"It's a kind of fantasy," said Allen, a contributing editor for Minding the Campus, a publication of the fiscally conservative Manhattan Institute. "It may make intellectually disabled people feel better, but is that what college is supposed to be all about?"

Oftentimes students with these disabilities stop their formal education when they finish high school, which is usually around the age of 21. Some districts have a partnership with colleges under which the district pays for their 18- to 21-year-old students to take higher education classes. In other cases, college costs are paid for by the parents.

Their children previously haven't been eligible for grants and work study money because they generally weren't seeking a degree and wouldn't have been admitted to college through the typical process.

These programs look "at higher education for what it's purpose in our community and our culture is—to provide opportunities for learning," said Meg Grigal, a researcher who works with Hart.

Golden Harvest celebrates Cultural Day

In observance of the Annual Cultural Day, Golden Harvest International School highlighted this event last Oct. 21, 2010, with students wearing diverse colorful and stylish attires representing different countries. The event was preceded by the making of flags and posters at each grade level the day before.

The program began with the Parade of the Nations, followed by a mini-fashion show. Six students stood out best with their national attires and were proclaimed winners. Everyone enjoyed singing the song Jesus Loves Me This I Know in four different languages: English, Filipino, Indonesian and Spanish. The event also featured delicacies and food, mainly Chinese, Japanese, Chamorro/Carolinian, Filipino, Italian, American and Mexican foods that were served and shared by parents, students, and teachers.

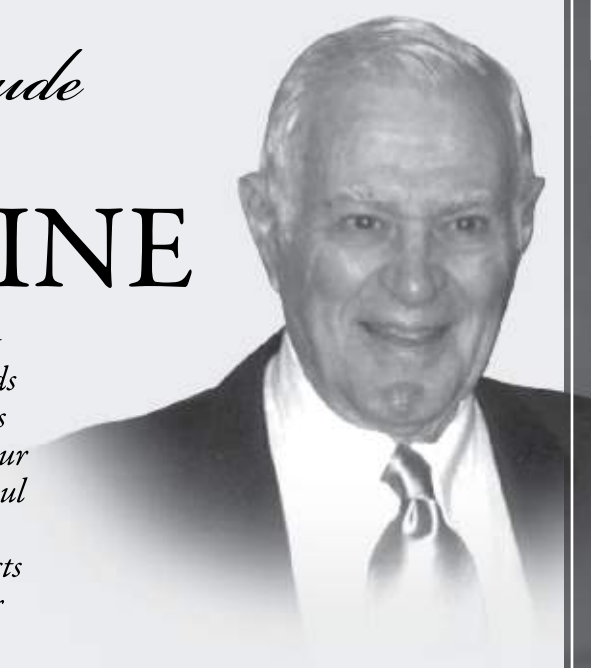
Through this celebration, students were taught to respect, appreciate and embrace cultural diversity as well as cultural awareness, especially in the context of our multi-cultural community. ***(PR)***

Golden Harvest International School students show off their diverse colorful and stylish attires representing different countries during the school's annual Cultural Day on Oct. 21, 2010.

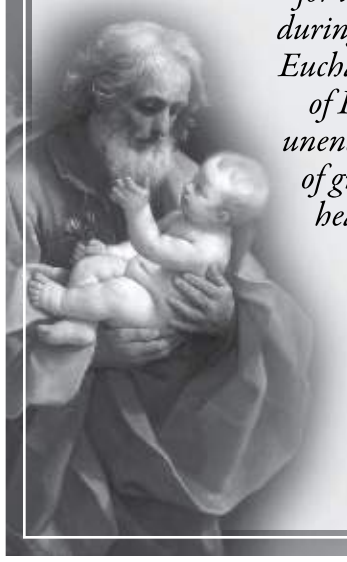
In Humble Gratitude

We, wife and family of the late

LEONARD SINE



Wish to extend our deepest and warmest appreciation to all our relatives and friends for the genuine compassion you showed us during our most painful time of sorrow. Your Eucharistic offerings for the repose of the soul of LEONARD SINE, prayers, comfort, unending support and other considerate acts of grace did much to calm the ache in our hearts and may time lessen our pain as memories gently turn to smiles.



We acknowledge and cherish the time you devoted to us. Your kindness has touched us all and we will always remember you.

Thank you – Si Yu'us Ma'ase – Maraming Maraming Salamat Po!

Gloria M. Sine and Family

Students invited to join ocean-themed multi-media contest

The Gulf of Mexico Oil Spill is a stark reminder of our influence on the ocean and its value to society and our economy. Oil spills are only one threat. Overfishing, habitat loss, pollution, invasive species and, overarching all of these, climate change will result in major changes to our oceans and coasts over the next 20 years.

"Oceans 2030: Youth Outlook" is a multimedia—photo, video and art—contest for youth to share their vision for our oceans over the next 20 years. The contest is being organized as part of the National Council for Science and the Environment's Our Changing Oceans Conference.

Winning entries will be showcased at the Waves of Change Ocean Expo at the Our Changing Oceans Conference in Washington, DC from Jan. 19 to 21, 2011, and published online on the Encyclopedia of Earth.

Individuals or groups (of up to five individuals) aged 15-24 are invited to submit one of the following:

- Photograph: digital photograph in high resolution as a .jpg, .png or .gif file
- Video: short video (up to 5 minutes) uploaded via YouTube
- Graphic art: illustration or comic (up to 3 panels) in high resolution as .jpg, .png or .gif file

Each submission should also include up to 300 words outlining your vision for our oceans in 2030 and why.

Submission deadline is Nov. 22, 2010.

Contact Lyle Birkey at lbirkey@ncseonline.org with any questions. ***(PR)***

ON THE NET

To learn more about the Oceans 2030: Youth Outlook Contest, visit www.ncseonline.org/conference/oceans

DEADLINE

Submission deadline is Nov. 22, 2010.

Life & Style

Bosnian refugees get donation after Jolie's visit

ROGATICA, Bosnia-Herzegovina (AP)—A U.S. government donation will provide housing for the last 15 people living in a Bosnian refugee camp that movie stars Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt drew attention to by visiting.

Radomir Jovicic, the mayor of the eastern Bosnian town of Rogatica, said Monday the nearly $500,000 donation will be used for the construction of an apartment building for the refugees who could move in by September.

Jovicic said he had lobbied for donations for the refugees for years but the Jolie and Pitt visit to the camp in April was the turning point leading to last week's U.S. donation agreement. Jolie, a UNHC ambassador, has visited some of the projects of the agency, which helps the 117,000 refugees who were left homeless by fighting that ended in Bosnia 15 years ago.

"I will tattoo her name here," said camp resident Goran Markovic, 47, pointing to one of his arms. After the April visit, refugee camp residents called Jolie their "beauty." But when they found out about the U.S. donation she became "our saint," said Markovic.

Jolie's name is not mentioned in the contract for the new apartment building in Rogatica, 30 miles (50 kilometers) northeast of Sarajevo, but the town's officials and refugees are convinced her visit made the difference.

"I simply cannot believe that there is no link between Angelina Jolie's visit and this project," said Jovicic.

Two refugees—sisters Lena Babic, 78, and Mara Babic, 72—fondly remember entertaining Jolie and Pitt on Easter Sunday when they visited them in their small room in the former school that serves as the refugee camp in Rogatica.

But both women only found out later that they were famous actors.

Their neighbor, 68-year-old Borka Mandzo, said she feels indebted to Jolie, and refugee Persa Radovic, 72, said she cried when she heard about the U.S. donation for a new apartment building.

Eva Mendes, Elijah Wood sign up for 24-Hour Plays

NEW YORK (AP)—Some of entertainment's biggest names—including Eva Mendes, Elijah Wood, Julia Stiles, America Ferrera, Claire Danes, Christopher Meloni, Leslie Bibb, Gloria Estefan and Kyra Sedgwick— have signed up to be frazzled.

They'll be appearing next month in the 10th annual benefit "24 Hour Plays on Broadway," which tasks 24 actors, six writers and six directors to come up with six original short plays over the course of a day.

"It's pure chaos," Rosie Perez, who has acted in the project every year, said Monday. "I tell all the actors when we begin, 'You will probably have a nervous breakdown. It's normal—go with it. If you're not having a nervous breakdown or some type of anxiety attack, you're doing something wrong.'"

The playwrights who have agreed to participate include Kristoffer Diaz ("The Elaborate Entrance of Chad Deity"), singer-songwriter Mike Doughty, Rajiv Joseph ("Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo"), Lynn Nottage ("Ruined") and Theresa Rebeck ("The Understudy"). One recent graduate from a writing program established by the Urban Arts Partnership will be selected to join the playwrights.

The marathon project unfolds like this: The playwrights will gather at 10 p.m. on Nov. 14 and must pen a 10-minute play by 7 a.m. the next morning. The actors will then rehearse the work for the next 12 hours. At 8 p.m. on Nov. 15, the plays will be performed for a live audience.

AP

Jessica Biel, left, and Eva Mendes arrive at Glamour Reel Moments on Monday Oct. 25, 2010 at The Director's Guild of America in Los Angeles.

Rapper T.I. won't face drug charge in Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Los Angeles prosecutors have declined to file a felony drug charge against T.I. stemming from his arrest last month on the Sunset Strip. According to a charge evaluation worksheet released Monday, deputies found four ecstasy pills on the 30-year-old rapper from Atlanta.

T.I., whose real name is Clifford Harris Jr., was on supervised release after serving 10 months in prison for federal weapons charges when he was arrested Sept. 1. A Georgia judge earlier this month sentenced him to another 11 months in prison for breaking his federal parole with the latest arrest.

As a condition of his release earlier this year, Harris was ordered not to commit another federal, state or local crime while on supervised release, or to illegally possess a controlled substance. He was also told to take at least three drug tests after his release and to participate in a drug and alcohol treatment program.

T.I.

The deputy district attorney in LA who rejected the case cited the sentence and the small amount of drugs found as reasons drug charges aren't being pursued.

"The Los Angeles District Attorney's Office's decision to reject TI's case was the right thing to do under the circumstances," Harris' attorney, Steve Sadow, wrote in an e-mail. He commended the office for "exercising its discretion to reject prosecution in light of the legal and factual issues involved."

The Grammy Award-winning rapper is expected to begin his prison term on Nov. 1.

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

Brazilian music tops Janet Jackson's to-do list

NEW YORK (AP)—Janet Jackson says despite winning numerous Grammy Awards, gracing the big and small screens and having an Academy Award nomination under her belt she still has a long to-do list. The 44-year-old star of the new big-screen drama "For Colored Girls" says she'd love to foray into Brazilian music and Jazz, genres she grew up listening to. She said Monday at the movie's New York City premiere Brazilian music is "a great love" of hers. Jackson plays a shrewd magazine executive facing marital problems in Tyler Perry's adaptation of Ntozake Shange's play "For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide When the Rainbow Is Enuf." She says her other professional goals include becoming an action star and doing a sci-fi film.

Michael J Fox is happy with his past and present

NEW YORK (AP)—No need for time travel for Michael J. Fox. The actor says he's happy with his life just the way it is. In fact, Fox says if he could jump in a DeLorean time machine— like his "Back to the Future" character Marty McFly— and share any advice, he would say "keep doing what you're doing." Fox says the role brought him to where he is now and he "wouldn't want to be anywhere else." Fox marked the 25th anniversary of "Back to the Future" at an event Monday in New York City. He says the 1985 film gave him worldwide notoriety and that he could "walk down the street in Bangkok" and hear "Marty McFly!" Fox was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease in 1991. He no longer acts regularly, but will appear on an upcoming episode of "The Good Wife" on CBS.

Newlyweds Brand, Perry leave India for Maldives

JAIPUR, India (AP)—Comedian Russell Brand and pop singer Katy Perry flew to the Maldives on Monday after their wedding at a tiger reserve in India, while authorities investigated whether the wedding party broke noise laws.

Under tight security, the couple tied the knot Saturday at an exclusive resort strewn with colorful lights and flower garlands.

On Monday afternoon, the newlyweds boarded a helicopter near Ranthambhore National Park and arrived in the city of Jaipur, where they took a chartered flight to the Maldives, Jaipur airport director R.K. Singh said. The nation of tiny coral islands in the Indian Ocean is renowned for its high-end resorts.

Friends who arrived by road joined the couple on the flight, Singh said.

Locals had mixed feelings about the celebrity visit, and Rajasthan state's chief minister on Monday ordered an investigation into public complaints about party noise that lasted into the early hours of Sunday, local district collector Ravi Kumar Surpur said. Local laws bar noise beyond 10 p.m. that would disturb local communities or wildlife.

Dying woman celebrated holidays in a 'living wake'

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I am a rabbi who was asked by a funeral director to talk with a family dealing with the wife's terminal illness. When I met Mindy, I was touched by her bravery and sensitivity in confronting her disease. She shared that she and her family were taking charge of the calendar and moving all the holidays forward so they could squeeze in as many celebrations as possible in the coming weeks.

Regardless of the actual date on the calendar, they were celebrating secular and religious holidays, birthdays and anniversaries. These events included decorating, serving the appropriate food associated with the observance—even wearing costumes for Halloween.

On my last visit, Mindy described something else she had done. She invited relatives who lived far away to be with her and gave them quilts she had created over her lifetime. She remarked that it made sense for her to be able to say her goodbyes rather than miss that opportunity. She described it as a "living wake." A few weeks later, she was gone.

For Mindy, condensing the holidays gave her the ability to control her medical situation in a gracious and innovative way. Her choice of saying goodbye to loved ones gave her—and them—time to heal any rifts that had occurred. In dealing with her own impending death, she bestowed a special gift to us for these upcoming holidays.

Let loved ones know today how important they are to you. If there is a way of resolving a family disagreement, do it as soon as possible. Life is too short for many of these disagreements. Finally, appreciate and enjoy the time we have with family, relatives and friends. It is truly irreplaceable.

RABBI ALBERT SLOMOVITZ

DEAR RABBI SLOMOVITZ: Well said. I confess that your account of Mindy's final weeks and her passing left me feeling very emotional. It is a profound lesson for us all, as is a poem that is a favorite of my dear mother's and mine:

THE TIME IS NOW
—Author Unknown
If you are ever going to love me,
Love me now, while I can know
The sweet and tender feelings
Which from true affection flow.
Love me now
While I am living.
Do not wait until I'm gone
And then have it chiseled in marble,
Sweet words on ice-cold stone.
If you have tender thoughts of me,
Please tell me now.
If you wait until I am sleeping,
Never to awaken,
There will be death between us
And I won't hear you then.
So, if you love me, even a little bit,
Let me know it while I am living
So I can treasure it.

■■■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

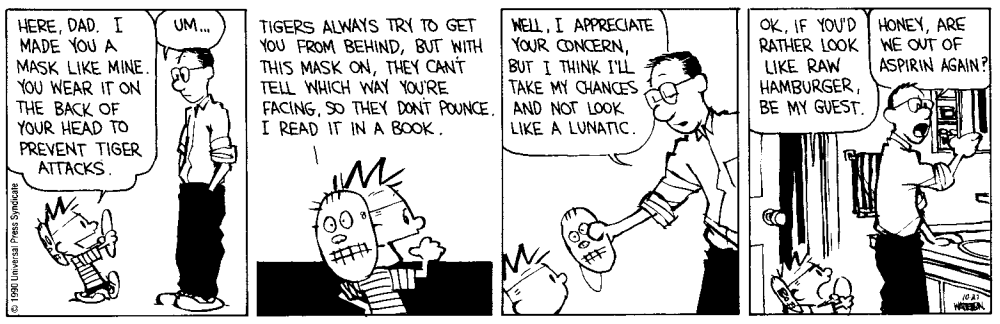
■■■

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby—Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


HERE, DAD. I MADE YOU A MASK LIKE MINE. YOU WEAR IT ON THE BACK OF YOUR HEAD TO PREVENT TIGER ATTACKS.
UM...
TIGERS ALWAYS TRY TO GET YOU FROM BEHIND, BUT WITH THIS MASK ON, THEY CAN'T TELL WHICH WAY YOU'RE FACING, SO THEY DON'T POUNCE. I READ IT IN A BOOK.
WELL, I APPRECIATE YOUR CONCERN, BUT I THINK I'LL TAKE MY CHANCES AND NOT LOOK LIKE A LUNATIC.
OK, IF YOU'D RATHER LOOK LIKE RAW HAMBURGER, BE MY GUEST.
HONEY, ARE WE OUT OF ASPIRIN AGAIN?
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Garfield®

By Jim Davis

WE'RE LOST IN THESE WOODS, MANFRED!
NOW, NOW, BABS...CALM YOURSELF
THERE'S NO NEED TO WORRY...SEE?
WE'LL JUST ASK THAT FOREST RANGER IN THE HOCKEY MASK FOR DIRECTIONS!
WORRY, BABS
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www.garfield.com
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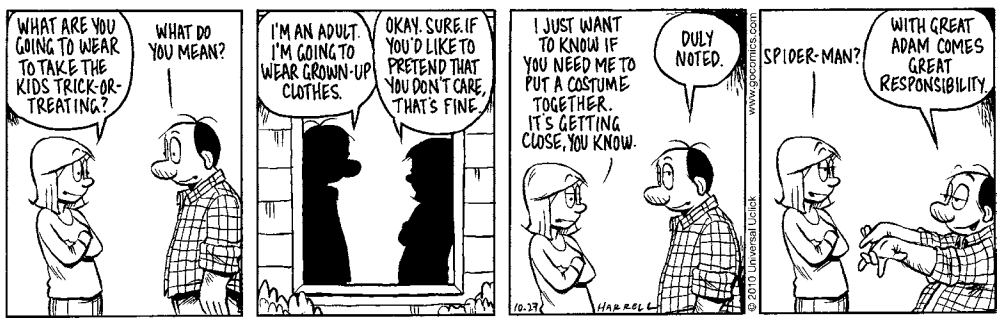
JIM DAVIS 10-27

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO WEAR TO TAKE THE KIDS TRICK-OR-TREATING?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
I'M AN ADULT. I'M GOING TO WEAR GROWN-UP CLOTHES.
OKAY. SURE. IF YOU'D LIKE TO PRETEND THAT YOU DON'T CARE, THAT'S FINE.
I JUST WANT TO KNOW IF YOU NEED ME TO PUT A COSTUME TOGETHER. IT'S GETTING CLOSE, YOU KNOW.
DULY NOTED.
SPIDER-MAN?
WITH GREAT ADAM COMES GREAT RESPONSIBILITY.
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www.gocomics.com

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

ENO, WHERE ARE THOSE FIFTY BAGS OF TWIX BARS WE BOUGHT LAST WEEK FOR THE TRICK-OR-TREATERS?
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www.gocomics.com
Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

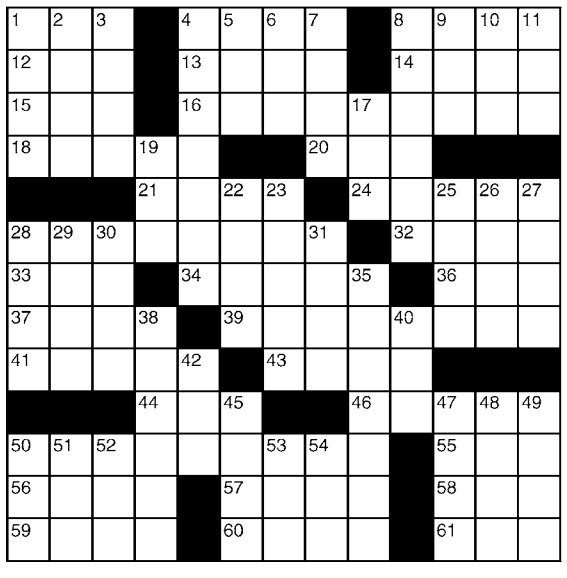
ACROSS
1 Craze
4 Touch
8 Exposed
12 Call — day
13 Legal worker, for short
14 Grad
15 Doughnut shop qty.
16 Steak-house entrees
18 Last letter
20 Wapiti
21 Historic times
24 Doc
28 Work-place for TV's Det. Mac Taylor
32 Puerto —
33 Old nuke org.
34 "Mean Girls" actress
36 Put on
37 Bridge coup
39 Central or Mountain, e.g.
41 Church council
43 Contempt-ible
44 Floral garland
46 — Hold 'Em
50 Paper-back Western, often
55 Trench
56 Mid-month date
57 Greet silently
58 Took a meal
59 Admon-isher's word
60 Scored 100 on
61 — Kippur

DOWN
1 Loyal pooch
2 Teensy bit
3 Stun
4 Garb
5 Tavern
6 Swiss canton
7 Domes-ticated
8 Popular game show host Bob
9 Foreman foe
10 Massage
11 Type squares
17 Freddy Krueger's street
19 Jewel
22 Oodles
23 Master, in old India
25 Queen of Carthage
26 PC picture
27 Scoop holder
28 Mama — Elliot
29 Depend (on)
30 "— see clearly now, ..."
31 Crimson Tide
35 Got snug and cozy
38 Harass
40 Last letter
42 Hideaway
45 Corn Belt state
47 MRI fore-runner
48 Car
49 Rose feature
50 Accom-plished
51 Altar affir-mative
52 Chaps
53 Carpet cleaner, for short
54 Cain's mom

Solution time: 21 mins.

B	A	N	G		E	F	T	S		A	H	A	
O	D	O	R		A	L	O	E		D	E	N	
A	D	V	A	N	T	A	G	E		V	A	N	
			T	U	S	K		T	H	E	T	A	
C	L	A	I	M			C	H	A	N			
A	I	D	S		S	A	L	E	S	T	A	X	
M	A	V		Y	O	Y	O	S		U	K	E	
P	R	E	P	A	R	E	D		G	R	I	N	
			R	I	R	E			A	R	E	N	A
A	C	T	E	D		E	L	B	E				
L	E	I		A	D	V	O	C	A	T	E	S	
I	D	S		R	U	E	S		S	O	L	O	
T	E	E		M	E	S	S		E	M	M	Y	

Yesterday's answer 10-27



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Kelly Osbourne, 26; Patrick Fugit, 28; Peter Firth, 57; John Cleese, 71

Happy Birthday: Be careful when it comes to helping friends and family. You can't always give others what they are asking for. Fix up your residence or buy and sell property. It will help ease the financial stress you've been feeling. Take action now and use your charm to convince others to help you. Your numbers are 3, 10, 26, 29, 30, 38, 42

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Watch your back or someone might trick you into admitting something you will pay for later. Don't allow anyone you deal with to put restrictions on you that stand in the way of an opportunity. Avoid group or joint efforts. ✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): There is plenty you can do to secure your position or ensure that you keep moving in a positive direction. Travel and educational pursuits will help you increase your knowledge and apply your skills. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): A little charm cast in the right direction will enable you to advance with one of your creative talents. Financial gains can be made if you push for what you want and present what you have to offer. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): You may be emotional and feel on edge if you have left a relationship up in the air. Contact someone to whom you owe an explanation or apology. It's never too late to correct something you did without thinking. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Step outside the box and you will have a better view of what needs to be done to rectify a problem you are facing. Take action now, before you are riddled with personal problems you cannot fix. Someone who loves you will be fed up if you haven't been honest. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): A change in your financial situation is apparent. You will prosper through an investment, settlement or property deal. Don't be afraid to ask friends and family for the support you need to fulfill a dream. ✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): If you are busy, you will overcome any melancholy you have. Rise above the negatives in your life. It may be easier said than done, but without changing lanes you will continue to spin your wheels. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Money matters may be the root of your uncertainty but, if you make an impulsive move trying to overcome your lack of funds, you will end up further behind. Save and stick to a budget so you don't add to the stress you are already experiencing. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): You may be confused about one of your partnerships. Both business and personal connections will be under duress and will need clarification if you plan to move forward. Talk matters through and make alterations. ✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): You know what you have to do in order to get ahead, so what's the hold up? Take action now while you have the opportunity to make a difference. Set the stage for what's to come and you will be a hero. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Don't say anything, just do what you are supposed to do without being asked. By showing responsibility and taking on extra tasks, you will heighten your reputation. A war of words will only slow you down and make you unhappy. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): There is money to be made and, with a little effort on your part, you will be in charge. You can make some favorable changes at home. You are in a high cycle regarding love, whether you are single or in a relationship. ✪✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are aggressive and ready to take on the world. You are not afraid to be different. You are progressive and productive.

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	5	7				3	9	
2			9		8			4
			5					7
			7					5
			1					2
		2					7	
	1					9		
5					3			
7	3	6	8		9	5	2	1

Difficulty Level ★★★ 10/27

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Saturday's SUDOKU Answer

6	3	1	5	8	2	9	4	7
5	7	2	9	4	3	8	6	1
8	9	4	6	1	7	5	2	3
1	6	5	7	2	9	4	3	8
7	8	3	4	5	1	6	9	2
4	2	9	8	3	6	7	1	5
9	1	6	2	7	8	3	5	4
3	4	8	1	9	5	2	7	6
2	5	7	3	6	4	1	8	9

Difficulty Level ★★ 10/26

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

THIS AND THAT IN FOOTBALL **Solution: 8 letters**

T	P	E	J	H	S	T	O	I	R	T	A	P	K	E
L	E	A	G	U	E	T	R	O	P	H	Y	S	C	N
A	R	L	R	A	S	E	N	Y	A	L	P	N	I	A
N	F	N	E	A	K	T	M	A	A	R	I	L	H	C
O	O	E	H	V	D	C	I	A	I	V	H	L	C	I
I	R	W	E	C	I	E	A	N	G	G	F	T	I	R
S	M	E	L	E	T	S	T	P	U	F	D	P	L	E
S	E	N	K	V	H	A	I	O	O	I	O	T	E	M
E	D	G	C	E	R	I	C	O	V	I	U	Ⓜ	B	A
F	I	L	A	N	O	I	T	A	N	C	Ⓐ	M	E	R
O	A	A	T	T	W	B	D	T	K	Ⓔ	L	I	P	I
R	D	N	K	C	A	B	R	E	Ⓣ	R	A	U	Q	Z
P	R	D	E	L	B	M	U	F	I	E	L	D	B	O
G	O	A	L	A	N	I	F	K	R	O	Y	W	E	N
S	P	O	N	S	O	R	E	C	E	I	V	E	R	A

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American, Arizona, Belichick, Catch, Club, Coughlin, David, Drop, Event, Field, Final, Football, Fumble, Game, Giants, Goal, Justin, League, Media, National, New England, New York, Package, Parade, Patriots, Perform, Pile, Play, Point, Professional, Quarterback, Receiver, Sponsor, Sprint, Tackle, Team, Television, Throw, Trophy, Tuck, Vince

Yesterday's Answer: Pinch

SALE: The topics of Wonderword for Kids' appeal to younger fans but the puzzle-difficulty matches what you've come to expect from Wonderword. For a limited time, the book is on sale for just $4 each (U.S. funds only, payable to Universal Uclick. Include $3 postage for the first book order, $1 p&h for each additional book. Send to Wonderword, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, Mo. 64106 or call toll-free, 1-800-642-6480.

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/ 24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Right behind NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. Special rates for NMC faculty/ students. Call 235-6527/8 or 285-1317 for info.

Ocean View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nighttime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Sunset View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nighttime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Nanny Needed Immediately

Monday to Friday, 12:00pm to 6:00pm

Permanent service and non live-in preferred.

English speaking, other languages is acceptable, but must be able to speak fluent english and have good communication skills with children.

Car provided for work & for personal use. $800 weekly.

Interested applicant must email Debby for more details at: **jclarkltd@gmail.com**

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Saipan Tribune

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FOR LEASE - RESIDENTIAL

4 bedroom, 2 bathroom house and lot for lease. Located in Beach Road, Garapan. Call 285-0018

WHATZIT Solution:
Back and forth

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2 B/R Apartment $200/mo

Available now Chinatown area.

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- **2 bathroom**

Located in Garapan, Sugar King Estate.

The house is equipped with a water tank, and has a fenced yard.

NMHC approved.

Available on November 12.

Call 483-4611 for more info.

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For lawnmower small engine
Please call
233-5641
Open: 7 Day a Week 9:00 AM-9:00 PM

LOST PASSPORT

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Date of Birth : November 9, 1969
Passport No. : G04279264
Contact No. : 285-1863

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WE ALSO FIX LAPTOP & USED PARTS
17" Monitor – FOR SALE
233-5641
Open: 7 Days a Week 9:00am - 9:00pm

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Starting as low as... **$25.00** without Insurance
Call: 233-9889, 483-8866 or 233-8866
$100 Security Deposit Required
Please visit QQ Store Garapan (2nd Road behind Fire Station)
Some conditions may apply

EXECUTIVE HOME FOR SALE

- Private, quiet, convenient, Capitol Hill location
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- Energy-efficient central air conditioning
- Jacuzzi spa, major appliances, Corian counter tops
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- Ready for solar or wind generator

- Paved road access – No four wheel needed!
- Secluded child-friendly neighborhood

- Beautiful orchids, heliconia and torch ginger
- Large backyard and play areas
- Mature fruit trees, avocado, mango, soursap, guava

- Appraised at $268,000
- Offered at $219,000, neg.
- Available October 1, 2010
- Contact: richard.brostrom@gmail.com

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Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$27
• 5-Liner	$24	$39
• 3-Liner with picture	$24	$42
• 5-Liner with picture	$36	$57

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:

- All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

DNA 1/4

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Find today's solution in this section

World Series: How Rangers and Giants match up

NEW YORK (AP)—A position-by-position look at the Texas Rangers and San Francisco Giants going into the World Series, starting Wednesday at AT&T Park.

First Base

Rangers: Mitch Moreland. Called up in late July, the rookie batted .255 with nine homers and 25 RBIs in 47 games. Entering the postseason, it appeared he would platoon with right-handed hitting Jorge Cantu. But Cantu went 0-for-7 in the playoffs and Moreland has solidified a trouble spot for Texas with competitive at-bats and solid defense. He batted a team-high .389 with three RBIs in the AL championship series against the New York.

Giants: Aubrey Huff. Signed as a free agent to a one-year contract at the bargain price of $3 million, Huff had a huge season and provided much-needed power in the middle of an inconsistent lineup. He had a .385 on-base percentage with 26 homers and 86 RBIs.

Second Base

Rangers: Ian Kinsler. Injuries limited the two-time All-Star to 103 games this year, when he batted .286 with only nine homers and 45 RBIs. But he's turned on the power in his first postseason, batting .342 with three home runs and nine RBIs in 11 games. A dangerous bat in the No. 6 spot.

Giants: Freddy Sanchez. The 2006 NL batting champion was stuck in a losing situation with Pittsburgh before getting traded to the Giants in July 2009. Now, he's playing in his first postseason and coming off a .360 batting average in the NL championship series upset of Philadelphia.

Shortstop

Rangers: Elvis Andrus. Second-year speedster seems to enjoy the spotlight. He's been an offensive spark from the leadoff spot, batting .333 in the playoffs and stealing seven bases - including home.

Giants: Edgar Renteria. In and out of the lineup, the 34-year-old Renteria played only 72 unproductive games this season, due in large part to injuries. With a wealth of postseason experience, he found his way back into the lineup in the NLCS, though he went 1 for 16 (.063) against Philadelphia. San Francisco sometimes goes with Juan Uribe at shortstop and Pablo Sandoval at third, leaving Renteria on the bench.

Third Base

Rangers: Michael Young. Another respected veteran who waited years to win, Young is enjoying his first postseason appearance after a decade of playing second base, shortstop and third for Texas. He's the unquestioned leader in the clubhouse, and one teammate referred to him as the Derek Jeter or Cal Ripken Jr. of the Rangers.

Giants: Juan Uribe. What a crucial and pleasant surprise Uribe has been to a Giants club short on power. He set career highs with 24 homers and 85 RBIs this season, playing mostly at shortstop. But he can also slide over to second or third, and his defense is sound. A free swinger at the plate, Uribe won a World Series ring as the everyday shortstop for the 2005 Chicago White Sox.

Catcher

Rangers: Bengie Molina. Traded from San Francisco to Texas on July 1, Molina has the unique distinction of playing for both teams in this World Series. He could wind up with a ring no matter who wins, and he said the Series will be a "happy, weird feeling" for him. Slow-footed but steady, the 36-year-old veteran is one of three Molina brothers who are major league catchers, all with championships. Bengie, who brings quality defense and a capable bat, won his with the 2002 Angels.

Giants: Buster Posey. Called up from the minors May 29, Posey was considered one of baseball's top prospects and quickly showed why. San Francisco initially put him at first base just to get his bat in the lineup, then traded Molina to make room for the rookie at his regular position behind the plate.

Edge: Giants.

Left Field

Rangers: Nelson Cruz. Though he spent most of the season in right field, Cruz is likely to play left in San Francisco, where NL rules prohibit a designated hitter, forcing Texas to put Vladimir Guerrero in right. Hamstring injuries limited Cruz to 108 games this season, but he provides prodigious power from the right side and he's been on a tear in the postseason, batting .375 with five homers and eight RBIs. Left-handed hitter David Murphy is likely to start in left if the Giants throw a right-hander in Texas, moving Cruz back to right and putting Jeff Francoeur on the bench.

Giants: Pat Burrell. Released by Tampa Bay, Burrell was salvaged off the scrap heap when the Giants signed him to a minor league deal May 29. He was called up six days later and batted .266 with 18 homers and 51 RBIs for San Francisco.

Center Field

Rangers: Josh Hamilton. Many are familiar with his incredible comeback story from drug and alcohol addiction. Hamilton was rated one of the best prospects in the history of the draft when Tampa Bay selected him No. 1 overall - ahead of Josh Beckett - in 1999. It took The Natural a long time to fulfill his potential, but he's a top contender for this year's AL MVP award after hitting a major league-best .359 with 32 homers and 100 RBIs despite missing 24 games in September with two broken ribs.

Giants: Andres Torres. A longtime minor leaguer, Torres replaced pricey veteran Aaron Rowand as the starter in center this season and ignited a stagnant offense from the leadoff spot. The 32-year-old had 43 doubles and 26 steals while compiling a .343 on-base percentage with 16 homers and 63 RBIs.

Right Field

Rangers: Guerrero or Francoeur. Primarily a DH this season, Guerrero is likely to move back to his old spot during games in San Francisco. Achy knees have slowed him, though, and right field at AT&T Park can be tricky. Looking for his first World Series ring, Guerrero had a big comeback this year after an injury-marred season with the Angels in 2009. He batted .300 with 29 homers and 115 RBIs. Francoeur is likely to start in right against left-handers at home.

Giants: Cody Ross. After aspiring to become a rodeo clown while he was growing up in New Mexico, Ross has developed into a folk hero by the bay for his clutch hitting this postseason. Plucked off waivers from Florida in late August, he batted .324 with four homers, four doubles and eight RBIs in 10 playoff games, winning the NLCS MVP award.

Designated Hitter

Rangers: Guerrero. The nine-time All-Star and 2004 AL MVP is a .330 career hitter against the Giants, with nine homers and 31 RBIs in 62 games.

Giants: Sandoval. The 24-year-old switch-hitter had a surprising drop-off in production this season, batting .268 with 13 homers and 63 RBIs after hitting .330 with 25 home runs and 90 RBIs in 2009.

Starting Pitchers

Rangers: No better way to open a postseason series than with Cliff Lee on the mound. The lefty ace-for-hire, with his fourth team in two years, has made pitching in October look easy. He is 7-0 with a 1.26 ERA in eight postseason starts, striking out 67 and walking only seven in 64 1-3 innings. The 2008 AL Cy Young Award winner beat the Yankees twice in last year's World Series but is still looking for his first championship ring. San Francisco's lineup could be the easiest one he's faced in the past two postseasons, too. Behind him, things are less certain - though the Rangers have built a strong pitching staff after years of trying to outslug opponents. Converted closer C.J. Wilson went 15-8 with a 3.35 ERA this season and pitched well in his first two playoff starts before struggling in Game 5 of the ALCS at Yankee Stadium. Right-hander Colby Lewis has been a pleasant surprise, going 2-0 with a 1.45 ERA in three playoff starts, with both wins coming against New York. Derek Holland entered early in relief of No. 4 starter Tommy Hunter in the ALCS and did a superb job.

Giants: One of the best rotations in the majors is headlined by undersized Tim Lincecum, winner of the last two NL Cy Young Awards. The Freak had a spectacular postseason debut, striking out 14 in a two-hit shutout of Atlanta. Then he split a pair of much-anticipated matchups with Roy Halladay in the NLCS - and struggled in a brief relief outing on one day of rest in Game 6. He can zip a fastball by almost anyone, or baffle hitters with off-speed stuff. Next, he'll face Lee in the World Series opener. Matt Cain was nearly untouchable in two playoff starts, allowing nine hits and striking out 11 in 13 2-3 innings. He did not allow an earned run. Young lefties Jonathan Sanchez and Madison Bumgarner both have moxie and strikeout stuff. Sanchez went 13-9 with a 3.07 ERA this year and carried that success into the playoffs before a short outing in Game 6 against the Phillies. Barry Zito, the $126 million lefty who won the 2002 AL Cy Young Award, was left off the roster in the first two rounds.

Bullpen

Rangers: Rookie closer Neftali Feliz looked more and more comfortable as the playoffs wore on, though he doesn't have a postseason save yet and hasn't been tested much in tight situations. With a 100 mph fastball, he converted a rookie-record 40 saves in 43 chances during the regular season. Texas' setup situation is a little precarious. Alexi Ogando has a power arm but is mostly unproven. Left-hander Darren Oliver, 40, is experienced and versatile, but he struggled in the playoffs. Right-handed submariner Darren O'Day went 6-2 with a 2.03 ERA in 72 appearances this year. Clay Rapada and Michael Kirkman were added to the ALCS roster to get lefties out. Kirkman threw two scoreless innings.

Giants: Eccentric closer Brian Wilson, with his funky haircut and thick, black beard, anchors a bullpen that's been lights-out for most of the last two months - except for a quick blip in the division series against Atlanta. The hard-throwing right-hander, who shows plenty of guts under pressure, led the majors with 48 saves in 53 opportunities this season. He's been a rock in October, saving five playoff games and striking out 12 in nine innings without giving up an earned run. Wilson makes things interesting at times, putting runners on base and Giants fans on the edge of their seats, but he closed out the powerful Phillies by getting five tough outs in Game 6 at Philadelphia. San Francisco has plenty of quality arms in front of Wilson, too, including lefty Javier Lopez. He was acquired from Pittsburgh at the trade deadline and went 1-0 with a 1.80 ERA in seven playoff outings. Jeremy Affeldt is another experienced lefty with good stuff and Santiago Casilla was 7-2 this year with a 1.95 ERA.

Bench

Rangers: Murphy is an accomplished hitter who batted .291 with 12 homers and 65 RBIs this season. He'll probably be on the bench most of the series, giving the Rangers a dangerous pinch-hitter - especially if they can get him to the plate against right-handed pitching.

Giants: There's experience on the pine in San Francisco, starting with Rowand and left-handed hitting infielder Mike Fontenot. The gritty Rowand, who carries a $12 million salary, was once an All-Star center fielder and Gold Glove winner. He won a 2005 World Series ring with the White Sox and is a team player who's stayed positive on the bench, trying to do whatever is asked. Travis Ishikawa has a slick glove that makes him useful as a late-inning replacement for Huff on defense

Manager

Rangers: Ron Washington. It's been a tumultuous but gratifying ride for Washington, making his first appearance in the World Series. In spring training, he admitted that he used cocaine once during the 2009 season. He offered to resign last year, but team president Nolan Ryan and general manager Jon Daniels stuck by him then and again when it became public. Washington has succeeded in bringing his own style of baseball to the Rangers, emphasizing fundamentals on defense and aggressive baserunning.

Giants: Bruce Bochy. With a flawed lineup and plenty of new faces who arrived during the season, Bochy has had to juggle roles in San Francisco. He's done an outstanding job, keeping the Giants headed in the right direction throughout a tight NL West race and then picking up his game during the playoffs. It seems all the major moves Bochy has made in October have worked, and there have been lots of them. He has issues at shortstop, third base and center field.

AP

Texas Rangers pitcher Cliff Lee fields a hit during baseball pitching drills in an afternoon team practice for the World Series, Sunday, Oct. 24, 2010, in Arlington, Texas. The Rangers are scheduled to play the San Francisco Giants in the opening game of the series on Wednesday.

Romo breaks collarbone in loss to Giants

AP

Dallas Cowboys quarterback Tony Romo leaves the field during the second quarter against the New York Giants in an NFL football game Monday, Oct. 25, 2010, in Arlington, Texas. Romo was drilled into the turf on his left shoulder, forcing him to the locker room for X-rays.

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)—Tony Romo's season might be over, and the Dallas Cowboys' season might as well be.

As for Eli Manning and the New York Giants, everything's clicking.

Romo broke his left collarbone in the second quarter, then his teammates let a 13-point lead turn into a 41-35 loss Monday night that helps send both teams in opposite directions in the NFC East.

The Giants (5-2) won their fourth straight and moved a full game ahead in the division.

Dallas slumped to 1-5, its worst start since 1989. That was the year Jerry Jones bought the team, Jimmy Johnson took over as coach and the Cowboys went 1-15. Everyone knew that team would stink. This club, however, had Super Bowl hopes.

Coach Wade Phillips acknowledged this is the most frustrating of his 34 seasons in the NFL. He also said he told the team to keep fighting.

"We've got some guys I think will step up and make plays," he said. "They fought hard all the way. It looked like we were way out of it and we still had a chance. We kept fighting."

Any logical chance of turning this season around ended 12:07 before halftime when Romo went down. Recovery time is generally 8 to 10 weeks and, by then, there may not be any reason to rush back. Only one team in NFL history has recovered from 1-5 to make the playoffs.

Phillips said he had no immediate timetable for Romo.

Romo was drilled by blitzing linebacker Michael Boley in the second quarter. It was a clean hit, but certainly a kill shot - Boley was untouched and Romo was vulnerable after having thrown a pass. He went down hard on his left shoulder and remained flat on his back.

X-rays showed the break before halftime, but Romo was back on the sideline for the second half, his arm in a sling and covered by a jacket. He wore a headset and trying to encourage teammates, but there wasn't much to cheer about.

The Cowboys actually were up only 10-7 when Romo left and stretched it to 20-7. Then New York scored on its next five possessions, a 31-point flurry that sent home much of the crowd by the middle of the third quarter. The Giants actually were ahead by the time Romo's injury was diagnosed.

Dallas backup Jon Kitna hadn't played since Oct. 5, 2008, when he was part of Detroit's winless season. Whether it was the long layoff, being 38 or both, he sure looked rusty.

"It just took him awhile to get going," Phillips said. "Once he did, it gave us a chance."

His first and third passes were tipped. The next time he dropped back, he was sacked for a 10-yard loss, forcing Dallas to punt from its own end zone. The Giants took advantage of the short field to score the go-ahead touchdown. His next pass was fumbled by Jason Witten, setting up Tynes' long field goal. It got so bad that there was a mock cheer when he completed a pass for a first down early in fourth quarter.

Kitna ended up throwing a pair of touchdown passes to rookie Dez Bryant in the final 3:17, but Dallas failed to recover onside kicks after each. New York got another field goal from Tynes after the first, then ran out the clock after the second.

With the Super Bowl coming to Cowboys Stadium, and his club coming off a division title and a playoff victory, Cowboys owner Jerry Jones knew he was headed toward a season he'd never forget. Now, he wishes he could - and he still has 10 games left.

The craziest part about this game was how many things the Cowboys did right: A club that had only four takeaways all season snatched five. A special teams group that was getting known for giving up big plays made a huge one - a 93-yard punt return for a touchdown by Bryant. They drew only five penalties.

But they also went 0 for 10 on third downs. And Romo wasn't the only guy lost to injury. Defensive end Jason Hatcher and left guard Montrae Holland hurt groins. Holland already was filling in for injured starter Kyle Kosier, so the Cowboys had to go with Phil Costa, a rookie free agent who was making his NFL debut.

Romo had thrown every pass by a Cowboys quarterback since Nov. 16, 2008, when he returned from a broken pinkie on his throwing hand that cost him three games. Those were the only games he'd missed since replacing Drew Bledsoe as Dallas' quarterback in October 2006.

He set the franchise record for yards passing in a season last year, making the Pro Bowl for the third time. In his brief action Monday night, he broke his own club record by throwing for a touchdown in his 18th straight game. He was 5 of 7 for 39 yards.

"It's a shame," Phillips said. "Tony looked like he was really sharp."

Kitna was 16 of 33 for 187 yards. Bryant had four catches for 54 yards and two touchdowns, plus the long punt return.

"Dez is a spectacular player," Phillips said. "I think everyone can see that."

Manning was 25 of 35 for 306 yards. This was the fourth time he'd thrown four TD passes.

Hakeem Nicks caught nine passes for 108 yards and two touchdowns. Steve Smith caught nine passes for 101 yards and a touchdown. Mario Manningham had the other TD catch.

Ahmad Bradshaw ran 24 times for 126 yards. Jacobs had 75 yards on 12 carries.

The Cowboys pulled out the stops this week to try turning things around. Team owner Jerry Jones gave an encouraging speech Monday, officials worked practices on Wednesday and Thursday and Hall of Famers Bob Lilly and Tony Dorsett were honorary captains for this game. (Hours earlier, Dorsett called the team "a bunch of underachievers.") They drummed up some loud applause by showing clips of the World Series-bound Texas Rangers, then cutting to Nolan Ryan in the stands.

Apparently, the Giants are making up for what the Yankees failed to do on their trip to Arlington last weekend.

Favre streak in jeopardy

EDEN PRAIRIE, Minn. (AP)—Brett Favre's ironman streak has endured a litany of injuries and even a pair of premature retirement press conferences.

Perhaps this is the week that, finally, Favre's health prevents him from playing.

Brett Favre allegedly sent lewd photos and inviting text messages to a former Jets employee.

The 41-year-old Minnesota quarterback has a stress fracture in his left ankle that could end his NFL-record streak at 291 consecutive games started— 315 including the playoffs.

Vikings coach Brad Childress said Monday an MRI on Favre's foot revealed the stress fracture as well as an "avulsion" fracture in the heel bone. An avulsion fracture occurs when a fragment of bone is torn away by a tendon or ligament. Childress said neither injury requires surgery.

"He's got great pain threshold and also great competitive zeal," Childress said, succinctly summing up Favre's legacy of durability.

Favre is also the subject of an NFL investigation into allegations that he sent lewd photographs and suggestive messages to a female New York Jets employee in 2008, a development that first put his streak in danger with the possibility of a suspension under the league's personal conduct policy. NFL spokesman Greg Aiello said Monday there was nothing to report about the investigation.

For this week, it appears Favre's biggest problem will be figuring out a way to heal fast enough to face New England on Sunday.

"He's got to be able to do all the things that his position does," Childress said. "You can't put a guy that's a sitting duck out there. His competitive nature I'm sure will come into it. But a lot of times you've got to protect people from themselves."

Favre had arthroscopic surgery on the ankle in May, and he received a series of lubricating injections in the joint at the beginning of the season. The ankle has bothered him at times this fall, but he hurt it in Sunday's 28-24 loss at Green Bay as he was being tackled from behind while throwing his first of three interceptions against the Packers.

Favre was limping around during the game and walking gingerly afterward, and Childress said he was wearing a walking boot around the practice facility on Monday to make him more comfortable.

He refused to rule Favre out of this week's game, which would likely mean a start by Tarvaris Jackson. But he also insisted that the streak won't influence the decision on whether to play him against the Patriots (5-1).

"We have to do what is right for the Minnesota Vikings," Childress said. "That's what I get charged with at the end of the day. I'm not worried about someone getting one more start or one more yard to equal 300."

His teammates will have to believe it when they see it.

"Unless they cut his leg off, it's going to be hard to keep him off the field," defensive tackle Kevin Williams said. "That's the type of guy he is, from what he's shown throughout his career."

The Vikings (2-4) are struggling to find the groove they enjoyed in Favre's first season, which started 6-0 and ended in the NFC championship game. With Favre's turnover count now at 14—including 10 interceptions, already three more than last year—he has been hurting them as much as he's helped them so far.

Favre didn't enter the locker room at Winter Park when it was open to reporters on Monday, but after the game he said he wouldn't put his record ahead of common sense.

"If I can play but not be effective, then it's not worth playing," Favre said. "I hope I use good judgment, so we'll see. I'm no spring chicken anymore. I don't heal as quickly."

The injury news overshadowed a second day of Childress criticizing Favre's decisions on the interceptions, two of which the Packers turned into touchdowns. The other stopped a Vikings drive that was already in field-goal range.

Childress said he planned to speak with Favre about the issue of staying "within the confines of our system," as he put it after the game, an assertion Favre didn't disagree with.

Asked Monday whether he and Favre are on the same page with their strategy, Childress paused for a second before saying, "Absolutely." When asked if Favre's straying from orders was a recurring issue, Childress said it was isolated to Sunday night.

Week 1 of Traders badminton in the books

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

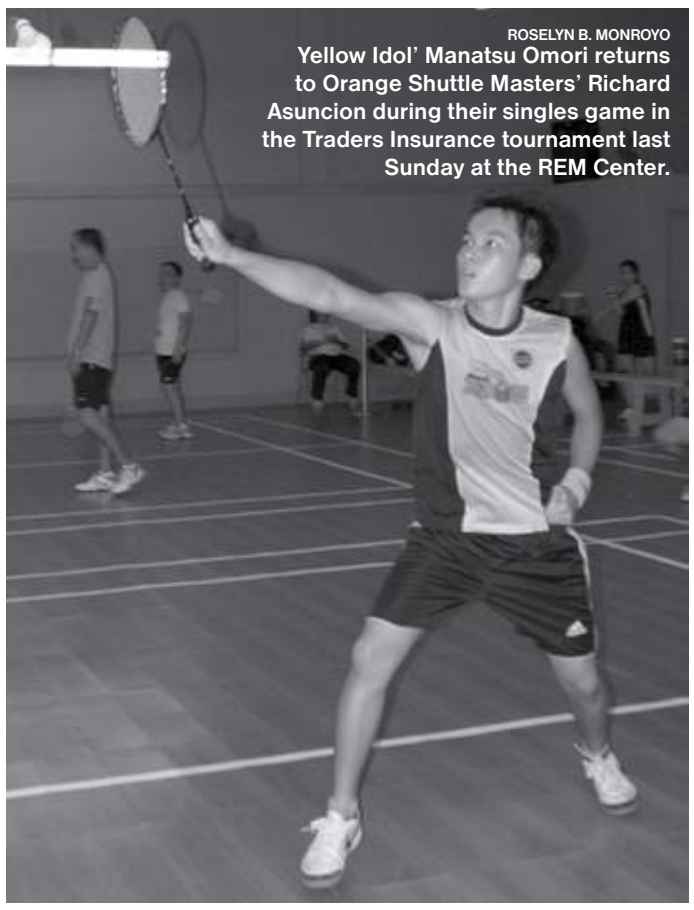
Winners in Week 1 of the 4th Annual Traders Insurance Badminton Team Tournament had already been decided after Sunday games at the REM Center in Gualo Rai.

In the Yellow Idols-Orange Shuttle Masters match-up, the former took a 9-1 win after prevailing in six of the seven matches scheduled last Sunday.

Delivering the victories for Yellow Idols were Chris Hilario, Aries Cordero, Lucelle Lampera, Emily Vargas, Manatsu Omori, Saul Gargallo, and Hapi Gabriel. Orange's lone victory in the pairing was courtesy of the tandem of Choi Hannah and Malou Mendoza, who beat Malou Malasarte and Heo In Seouk in the women's doubles, 2-1.

In the Black Hawks-Green Buck$ pairing, the former prevailed, 6-4, bringing their total won sets to 42 to take the Week 1 lead in the seven-team tournament.

After sweeping their first three games last Saturday, the Black Hawks notched three more wins last Sunday to hand Green Buck$ its second straight loss in the opening week of the month-long tournament.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Yellow Idol' Manatsu Omori returns to Orange Shuttle Masters' Richard Asuncion during their singles game in the Traders Insurance tournament last Sunday at the REM Center.

The Black Hawks drew victories from Edwin Maratas, Ric Brien, Alvin Alvarez, Annette Quiambao, and Angie Ito to foil a Green Buck$'s comeback bid and remain on top of the team standings.

Green Buck$ dropped to fifth place with its 21 sets won, as the Puy Macario-led team also bowed to Red Hot Chili Shuttlers last Saturday and Friday, 4-6.

Red Hot failed to win its second pairing when Royale Blue prevailed in their Week 1 match, 8-1. Ahead at 3-0 after last Saturday's games, Royale Blue took five of the six games scheduled last Sunday to notch the win and recover from a 1-8 loss to Black Hawks last Friday.

Royale Blue has one game left each against Black Hawks and Red Hot, as the former is still waiting for Macoi Aguda's arrival. If Aguda and his doubles partners win the two remaining games, the victories will be added up to Royale Blue's total, which stood at 26 won sets after Week 1.

Royale Blue's total sets won in the opening week of the competition is second best to Black Hawks. Red Hot owned the third best sets won record at 24, followed by Yellow Idols (23), Green Buck$ (21), Orange Shuttle Masters (20), and Pink Dynamites (16).

Week 2 of the Traders Insurance tournament will be played this weekend with Green Buck$ challenging Royale Blue; Black Hawks facing Orange Shuttle Masters; Red Hot playing Black Hawks; Pink Dynamites facing Royale Blue; Yellow Idols dueling Pink Dynamites; and Green Buck$ battling Yellow Idols.

SIS

From Page 32

ry managed to break Jewell's serve.

However, that was not enough to bring Calvary back into the game, as Borja and McCullough-Stearns attacked the net anew and Roberts finished the job with a clever return. With SIS ahead, 24-11, Roberts instead of setting up Borja or McCullough-Stearns for a kill opted to swing the ball to the left side backline. Three Calvary players chased the leather, but had miscommunication as none of them ended up hitting it back to SIS.

SAIPAN

From Page 32

ranging from kids to masters (over 40 years old) and is classified into 20 divisions, according to skill level, weight class and gender.

The duo currently attends Gracie-Barra University in Hawaii where they study Jiu Jitsu together, while attending their classes.

Mafnas competed in the seven-member cruiserweight intermediate No-Gi division and endured three victorious five-minute matches to take home the gold medal. Cruiserweight is set from 190 to 199.9 lbs. and the intermediate level consists of either a Brazilian Jiu Jitsu Blue Belt or two to five years of experience in BJJ, wrestling, and judo. All of Mafnas' opponents held BJJ Blue Belts.

Mafnas won his first match, 5-4. He escaped an early guillotine choke from his foe and then found a take down and imposed a dominant position before going on to catch both a head/arm choke and Kimura hold.

Mafnas also won his second match by a hair, 5-4, against a very talented wrestler. Mafnas scored a takedown, maintained a dominant position, and employed another Kimura hold for the win.

Then in the gold medal match, Mafnas quickly found himself behind in points, 0-9, to the biggest competitor in the division. Mafnas answered with a take down and a sweep, but knew that time was running out on him. Trailing, 4-9, in the final minute of the match, Mafnas locked in a Kimura with all his might and managed a tap out with less than 30 seconds left for a dramatic victory.

"A huge thank you to Cuki Alvarez and the Trench Tech family for instilling in me the never give up attitude. I was ecstatic that I actually managed to finish the submission for the gold. It was awesome. I also want to send special thanks to my family and friends for their unending support and thank you to my instructors and teammates at Gracie Barra University-Hawaii for taking the time to share their knowledge of the game," said Mafnas, who also won a bronze in the BJJ Blue Belt cruiserweight Gi division.

Mafnas' teammate, Dela Cruz, competed in the featherweight (140-149.9lbs.) intermediate No-Gi divison and won a silver medal. Dela Cruz won three matches via arm bar, guillotine choke, and an inverted triangle choke to advance to the final gold medal match where he lost by points, 0-3.

NMIFA

From Page 32

Wild Bill's. Results of these games were unavailable at press time. Tomorrow, Matansa will debut against the newest club in the CNMI—Shirley's Coffee Shop. MP United and Tan Holdings drew byes in Week 1 and will have their first game this Sunday and next Thursday, respectively.

Games in the men's league are played at 12pm, 2pm, and 4pm every Sunday and at 7pm every Thursday.

Also kicking off this week was the 2010 NMIFA Interscholastic U12 League, which opened shop yesterday at the various schools fields.

The league has competitions both in the boys and girls divisions and is divided into two groups.

The girls southern division has Oleai Elementary School, Koblerville Elementary School, Dandan Elementary School, William S. Reyes Elementary School, and San Vicente Elementary School. Grouped in the girls northern division are Kagman Elementary School, Garapan Elementary School, Saipan International School, Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School, and Kagman Elementary School.

The boys southern division also has five teams in Oleai, Koblerville, Dandan, WSR, and San Vicente, while the boys northern group is composed of Garapan, SIS, GTC, Kagman, and Saipan Community School.

Games in the U12 league will be played every Tuesday and Thursday with the first match starting at 3:15pm and the second at 4:15pm.

Futsal boot camp Saturday

Another fall league will kick off next month with NMIFA holding the 2010 Women's Futsal Fall League on Nov. 1.

The futsal league will have two categories: competitive and recreational. Interested players in either division are requested to attend a boot camp this Saturday, from 9am to 11 am at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

After the boot camp, NMIFA will go ahead with its three times a week playing schedule for the futsal fall league. Matches on Monday and Wednesday nights will be played at the JP Center Basketball Court in Garapan, while Saturday morning games are set at the MHS gym.

Registration is on going with only female players in the 15-and-above age group allowed to play in the league. The league will run for three months or until January and will be a 5-aside game. Interested players, who have yet to find team, can register at the NMIFA office at the TSL Plaza, to be listed in one of the participating squads. Registration fee is $25.

Lady Ayuyus avenge loss to Rays

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Kagman High School got even with Saipan Southern High School after sweeping their games in the 2010-2011 MISO Girls Basketball League last Monday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

The Lady Ayuyus, who bowed to the Lady Rays last week, this time were the winners both in the junior varsity and varsity games.

Kagman prevailed in the junior varsity game, 23-12, after limiting Southern to only four field goals.

On offense, Kagman coach Francis San Nicolas leaned on Aizuko Halstead, who carded eight points. Elilai Diailug and Liyel Gideon combined for 11 for Kagman with the latter making all her five points in the first period to give the Lady Ayuyus a 7-3 lead.

In the last three quarters, Kagman continued to play better basketball against Southern to avenge its loss last week.

The Lady Ayuyus then completed a sweep after edging the Lady Rays in the varsity division, 64-57.

Kagman got double figures from three players and at least six points from three more cage belles to slip past Southern. Mercedes Mesa and Tiana Muna had 14 points apiece, Patsylyn Jetley added 12, Geraldin Faisao chipped in eight, and Stacie Mizutani and Diailug tallied six each.

Roxanne Duenas top-scored for Southern with 32 markers, but she had only Daylinne Joseph helping her out on offense, as the latter scored 12.

Faisao, Mesa, and Muna teamed up early for Kagman, resulting to a 19-8 first-quarter lead. The trio combined for 17 points in the opening period.

The Lady Ayuyus maintained the double-digit lead in the second and third cantos then foiled Southern's repeated comeback bids in the fourth to keep the win. The Lady Rays sliced the lead to single digit several times in the final period behind Duenas' 10 points, but Jetley answered with 10 markers, too, in the fourth to preserve Kagman's victory.

With Kagman and Southern settling their scores, only Marianas High School is the undefeated school both in the junior varsity and varsity divisions of the MISO caging.

First Game

Kagman 23 – Halstead 8, Diailug 6, Gideon 5, Ayela 2, Ada 2.

Southern 12 – Muna 4, C. Lizama 4, R. Lizama 2, V. Bartolo 2.

Scoring by quarters: 7-3, 9-5, 15-9, 23-12.

Second Game

Kagman 64 – Mesa 14, Muna 14, Jetley 12, Faisao 8, Mizutani 6, Diailug 6, Gideon 2, Iriarte 2.

Southern 57 – Duenas 32, Joseph 12, Teregeyo 5, Atalig 4, Sablan 4.

Scoring by quarters: 19-8, 37-26, 50-40, 64-57.

SONICS

From Page 32

third and received a lot of support from his teammates. The Sonics capitalized on a lot of Saints misses and began to pull away, 74-61, heading into the final period.

The Saints showed that they have the speed and good conditioning to run the court, but again like in their last loss they had trouble finishing plays.

Virtually everyone on the Sonics performed well in the fourth period, while the Saints were visibly frustrated with the time winding down.

Galarse finished with a team-high 23 points for the Sonics, while the Saints' Reyes turned in a game-high 27 marks in the loss.

Sonics 107 – Galarse 23, Sula 13, Cadiang 12, Tudela 12, Ajoste 11, Palacios 10, Ecalnea 8, Salas 6, Villanueva 6, Jeon 4, Barbo 2.

CK Saints 84 – Reyes 27, Kyoshi 24, V Iglecias 21, Brennan 6, Namelo 4, Cruz 2.

Scoring by quarters: 15-21, 46-43, 74-61, 107-84.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NFL STANDINGS

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East	W	L	D	Pct	PF	PA
N.Y. Jets	5	1	0	.833	159	101
New England	5	1	0	.833	177	136
Miami	3	3	0	.500	111	135
Buffalo	0	6	0	.000	121	198
South						
Tennessee	5	2	0	.714	199	117
Houston	4	2	0	.667	153	167
Indianapolis	4	2	0	.667	163	125
Jacksonville	3	4	0	.429	130	209
North						
Pittsburgh	5	1	0	.833	137	82
Baltimore	5	2	0	.714	149	129
Cincinnati	2	4	0	.333	132	141
Cleveland	2	5	0	.286	118	142
West						
Kansas City	4	2	0	.667	150	112
Oakland	3	4	0	.429	179	165
San Diego	2	5	0	.286	177	149
Denver	2	5	0	.286	138	199

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East	W	L	D	Pct	PF	PA
N.Y. Giants	5	2	0	.714	175	153
Washington	4	3	0	.571	130	133
Philadelphia	4	3	0	.571	172	157
Dallas	1	5	0	.167	137	152
South						
Atlanta	5	2	0	.714	169	133
Tampa Bay	4	2	0	.667	98	128
New Orleans	4	3	0	.571	147	138
Carolina	1	5	0	.167	75	130
North						
Chicago	4	3	0	.571	126	114
Green Bay	4	3	0	.571	167	136
Minnesota	2	4	0	.333	111	116
Detroit	1	5	0	.167	146	140
West						
Seattle	4	2	0	.667	120	107
Arizona	3	3	0	.500	98	160
St. Louis	3	4	0	.429	120	131
San Francisco	1	6	0	.143	113	162

Yesterday's Game
N.Y. Giants 41, Dallas 35

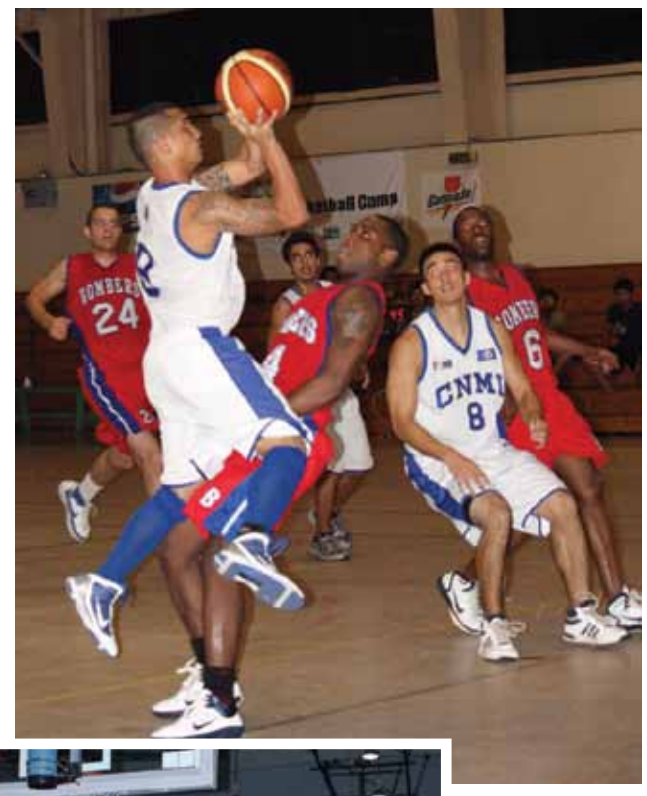
BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Andersen Bombers vs Saipan Teams

PHOTOS BY
ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Left, the CNMI Nationals' Pete Iguel tries to dribble past Andersen's Matt Huston.

Right, Andersen's Durant Gordon drives to the baseline against the CNMI's Trevor Ogumoro during their exhibition game at the Marianas High School Gymnasium last Saturday.

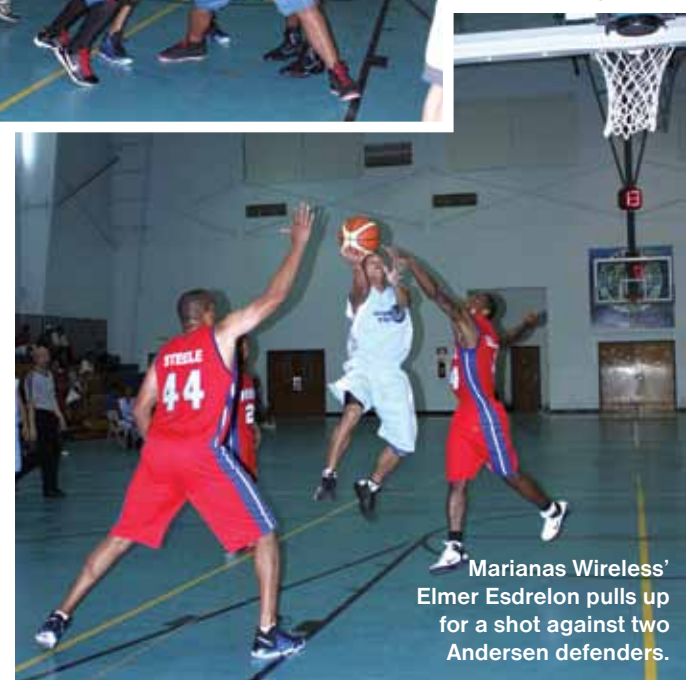


Andersen's James Peterson is defended well by the CNMI Nationals' Jack Lizama.

Above, the CNMI Nationals' Joe Villacrusis rams into the defense of an Andersen Bombers player during their exhibition game last Friday at the Northern Marianas College Gymnasium.

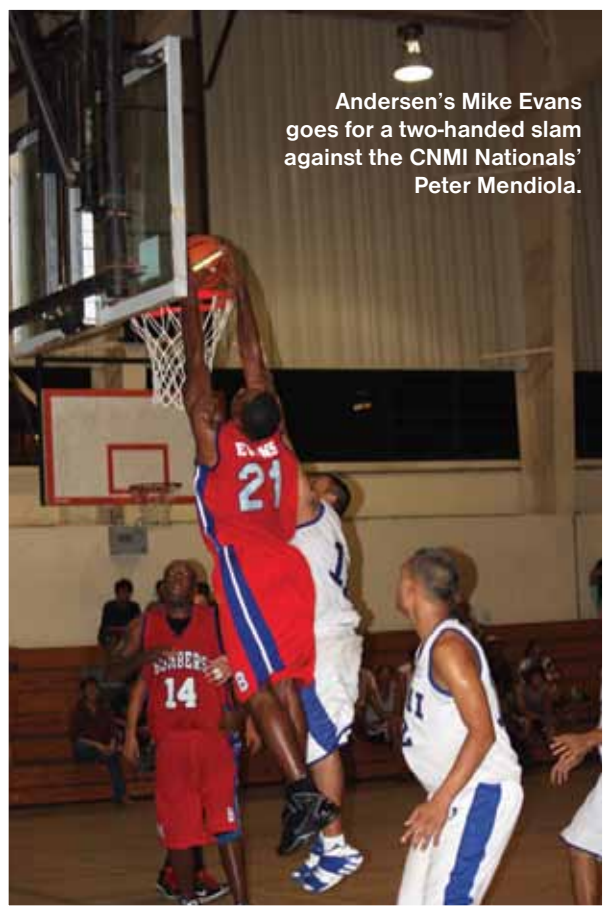
Left, the CNMI's Savali Talalemotu has three Andersen players defending him.

Andersen's Matt Huston threads the defense of Marianas Wireless players.



Marianas Wireless' Elmer Esdrelon pulls up for a shot against two Andersen defenders.

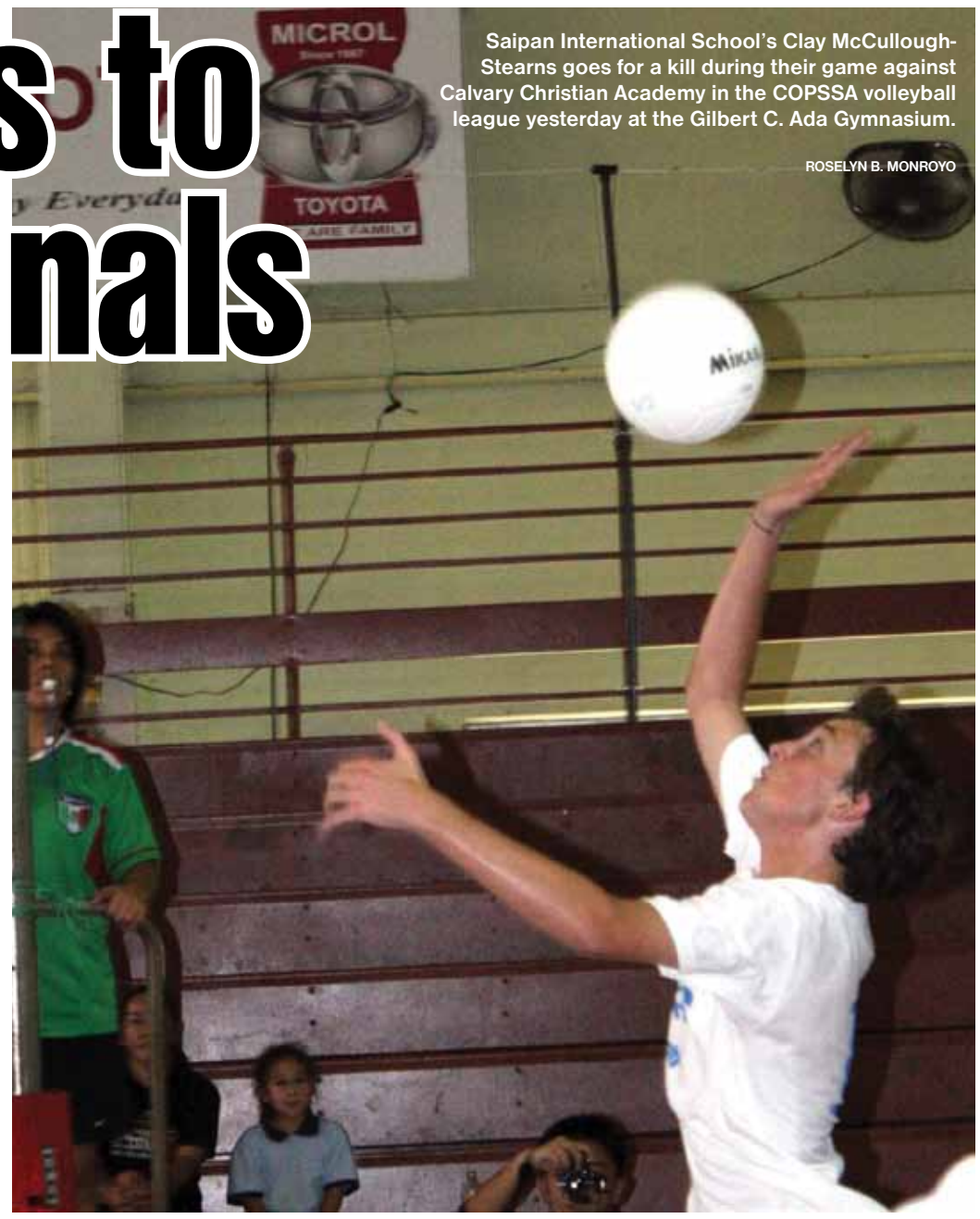
The CNMI Nationals' Quincy Johnson gets away for a baseline layup.



Andersen's Mike Evans goes for a two-handed slam against the CNMI Nationals' Peter Mendiola.

Andersen's Darius Steele, left. tries to muscle his way in against the defense of Marianas Wireless' Kae Bernardo.

SIS advances to varsity semifinals



Saipan International School's Clay McCullough-Stearns goes for a kill during their game against Calvary Christian Academy in the COPSSA volleyball league yesterday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The sweep trend in the varsity playoff round in the 2010-2011 Coalition of Private Schools Sports Association Volleyball League continued after Saipan International School A beat Calvary Christian Academy in straight sets.

The Geckos swept the Sharks, 25-18, 25-11, yesterday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium to march to the semifinals against Marianas Baptist Academy. The MBA Stormz gained the first semis seat after nailing a similar straight set victory against SIS B last Monday, 25-14, 25-15. The SIS A-MBA semis duel will take place tomorrow at the Ada gym at 3pm.

Winner of the semis game will earn the right to challenge defending champion Grace Christian Academy in the finals this Friday. The Eagles booked the first finals ticket and boosted their bid for a seventh consecutive varsity division championship after sweeping Mt. Carmel School in the first round of the playoffs, 25-9, 25-15.

The Geckos duplicated GCA and MBA's victories via sweeps after downing Calvary in less than an hour. The sweep was an answered prayer for SIS, as it had to finish the match early and rush to the Marianas High School for another volleyball game.

Yesterday's playoff game saw Calvary matching SIS's quickness in the back and center line. However, the Geckos were the better team in the net with Josh Borja and Clay McCullough-Stearns alternately hitting kills for the Kim Peterson-coached squad. Borja and Stearns benefited the most from the consistent set-up job of tosser Amber Roberts.

Calvary gave SIS a good fight in the closing minutes of the opening set before the Geckos went back to business and scored the last three points in the set to move a win away from making it to the semifinals.

Then the first part of the second set was another close game with SIS scoring the first two points before good ball placements produced dividends for Calvary. With the Sharks finding unmarked spots and SIS a stepping a bit slow in chasing the ball, Calvary managed to lead by two, 8-6.

A few plays later, SIS knotted the count, 8-8, and then pulled away with Zoe Jewell at the service line. With Jewell serving, SIS took a 12-8 lead. Calvary sued for time to halt the rally, but failed, as the Geckos tallied six more points with Jewell still serving.

The Sharks called another timeout and finally after SIS scored one more point, Calva-

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Saipan fighters win medals in Hawaii

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan's Jose Mafnas, right, and Clinton Dela Cruz pose with their medals won during the North American Grappling Association's competition last Saturday at the Radford High School Gymnasium in Salt Lake, Hawaii.

By WALTER SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Saipan's Jose Mafnas and Clinton Dela Cruz both won medals in last Saturday's North American Grappling Association's competition held at the Radford High School Gymnasium in Salt Lake, Hawaii.

The NAGA competition consisted of nearly 800 competitors

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NMIFA goes full swing in fall leagues

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Football leagues are everywhere, as Northern Mariana Islands Football Association has three on-going fall leagues and will have one more coming up.

The association started the fall season with the 2010 NMIFA Youth Football Fall League last month with competitions in the co-ed U6, U8, and U11, and boys and girls U14 and U18 divisions.

Games are played at the various school fields and at the Oleai Sports Complex and the youth league is on its sixth week. This year's fall season featured 55 teams and more than 500 players.

Not to be left out are adult strikers, as NMIFA kicked off the 2010 Men's Football Fall Cup last Sunday at the Oleai field.

Ten teams are vying for the Fall Cup: Inter Godfather's, Independents FC, Baek Du San, Paire FC, Korean Football Association on Saipan, Wild Bill's, Matansa FC, Shirley's FC, MP United, and Tan Holdings FC.

Inter Godfather's played against Independents FC last Sunday, while Baek Du San and Paire FC dueled in the second game in Week 1, and KFAS challenged

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Garapan Elementary School goalie Marvin Lopez kicks the ball during a practice game with his teammates at the GES field yesterday. Garapan was scheduled to play Kagman in the northern division of the NMIFA U12 league yesterday.

Sonics rout Saints, 107-84

By WALTER SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

The Sonics started slow but went on to blow away the Saints, 107-84, during their game in the U19 division of the 2010 Saipan Rotary Club Youth Basketball League last Monday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The win improved the Sonics' record to 5-1, while the Saints suffered two losses in a row after winning their season opener.

The Saints found some offense early and managed a six-point lead, 21-15, in the opening period. Josh Kiyoshi led the Saints' charge with eight markers in the first quarter.

Kiyoshi then added 11 more points in the second, but the Sonics started hitting their mark in that quarter to take three-point advantage, 46-43, at the half. The Sonics' Melvin Cadiang and Leo Galarse tallied 10 points apiece in the team's recovery in the second canto.

After the break, Galarse led the Sonics with eight points in the

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WALTER SUTHERLAND

The Sonics' Leo Galarse, right, goes for an off-balance shot against the Saints' Luizi Reyes during their game in the Rotary caging last Monday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.